Pacific Islands Fishery NEWS

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Ecosystem-based Management of Fisheries in the US Pacific Islands

The Council was established by Congress in 1976 to manage marine resources and maintain opportunities for sustainable domestic fishing in the US exclusive economic zone waters and high seas around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the eight US Pacific remote island areas.

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Customary Exchange Maintains Cultural Continuity

By Craig Severance, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of Hawaii at Hilo

One of the most widespread and important fishing traditions in the Pacific Islands, including those under US jurisdiction, is fishing to share and to give, a form of non-commercial customary exchange that brings people together in cultural and social solidarity. Many of our small boat fishermen fish in order to share and to give fish at a variety of cultural and ceremonial occasions. Often, the stimulus to make a trip on the deep ocean is an upcoming party, social obligation or cultural event where fish is a desired or expected contribution. Even commercially licensed fishermen share a significant portion of their catch. Even if there are no ceremonial obligations, fishermen often give a portion of their catch to friends and neighbors with no real expectation of return. Kanaka maoli in the State of Hawaii, Samoans in the Territory of American Samoa, Chamorro and Refaluwasch in the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and others who live in these islands and have been influenced by these cultures expect to have fish at important cultural occasions and rely on fishermen to provide those fish for the benefit of all the participants. Those fish then flow through the community in ways that contribute to people's health and give people a sense of sharing and common identity. As a Samoan High Chief once said, "Fish is culture!"

The 1st place winner of the 26th Annual Saipan Fishing Tournament, held July 17 and 18, 2010, in the Northern Marian Islands, went to the boat The Warriors, *captained by John Guerrero (left) with anglers Tony Scragg (right), Tom Coleman and Mark Staffler for their 248-lb catch.*

It is important to recognize the significant differences between customary exchange and trade and barter. Trade and barter imply a discussion or a negotiation and an immediate calculation of what will be given back as part of the exchange, often within a short time frame. There is always a profit motive. That is the reason the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act defines trade and barter as "commercial." By contrast, giving fish through customary exchange does not include any discussion or negotiation of what may be given back or any timeframe for any return gift. There is no monetary profit motive. The motivation to give relates to the fishermen's role and reputation in their community and to their social networks. Giving fish often enlarges their social network and may contribute to their status and reputation in the community. Eventually they may even receive some form of return giving and sharing, but no calculation is made to equate what was given for what may or may not be eventually received. Return giving may be in a variety of forms: other products, labor or even social support. A return gift is not expected, is not calculated and is not a motive as it would be for trade-, barter- or profit-motivated market exchange. Return gifts may eventually be given, but the value is in the perpetuation of social relationships in culturally valued ways.

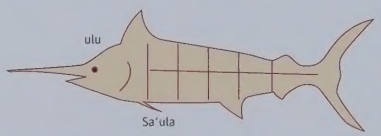
As a Samoan High Chief once said, "Fish is culture!"

Fisheries anthropologists call this "generalized reciprocity," a form of non-market, non-commercial exchange. The concept developed in classic economic anthropology following the idea that a gift is a statement of social relations, even in market-based economies. It was elaborated in the analysis of non-market exchange with the distinction between generalized and balanced reciprocity. Balanced reciprocities have some expectation of a return gift of some equivalency within a shorter time frame, but those are not negotiated in the same way barter and trade is negotiated. Generalized reciprocities do not have any negotiation, and an equivalency or short time for any return is often considered culturally offensive. The point is to be a generous sharing person. If you fish, then fish are appropriate gifts in many circumstances. Generalized reciprocities are deeply embedded in social relations and can not be fully understood without considering the importance of those social relations. Fisheries economists with mainland mindsets often have difficulty grasping this concept. They think in terms of capital investment, economic rent and profit from the fisheries. Their analysis tools measure these things but cannot easily

Continued on page 2

estimate a value for good social relations and cultural continuity.

In Hawaii, large marlin are often smoked and then given to family, friends and others in ongoing or new social networks. Trollers often cut the first ahi of the season and share it widely. It is said to bring good luck! It spreads the health and social benefits as locally caught fresh fish flows out into the community. Many people in Hawaii have social relationships with good fishermen and may turn to them when fish are needed for a first birthday luau, a graduation party, a wedding or some other kind of cultural need. The sharing of fish through customary exchange often means that fish flows across ethnic and cultural boundaries and brings people of quite different backgrounds together. This benefits the whole community in ways that are impossible to measure using standard economic tools. Healthy fish flowing out into the community may help uphold the fishermen's reputation but does not gain them any clear or immediate economic return!



Ceremonial cuts of pelagic species for distribution in American Samoa.

In American Samoa, fish is expected at a number of ceremonial occasions, and many high chiefs have boats and are served by a master fisherman, or tautai, from their village who often fishes when there is ceremonial need. Atu (skipjack tuna) are still targeted and formally distributed in quarters at certain ceremonies including the one-year anniversary of a death and funeral. The largest fish landed on a small boat trip is given to the chief or high chief. A Samoan research colleague invented a way to track the amount and importance of such fish flow. You go to the ceremonies and interview people about where the various fish came from. If you only track the fish to the boat as it is landed by using creel surveys, you miss the cultural and social importance of giving and sharing fish. Research has shown that small boat fishermen in Samoa consistently give a significant portion of all fish landed through a variety of named customary exchanges.

In Guam and CNMI, many important ceremonies provide cultural pride, solidarity and continuity for the indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch of the Mariana Archipelago. Fish are a desired and expected contribution at the annual village fiestas, baptisms and confirmations, weddings and other special ceremonies. Fishing trips are often triggered by cultural and ceremonial needs. A well known fisheries economist on Guam who understands customary exchange distributes almost all of his catch to his wife's clan members and others. The giving enhances his reputation

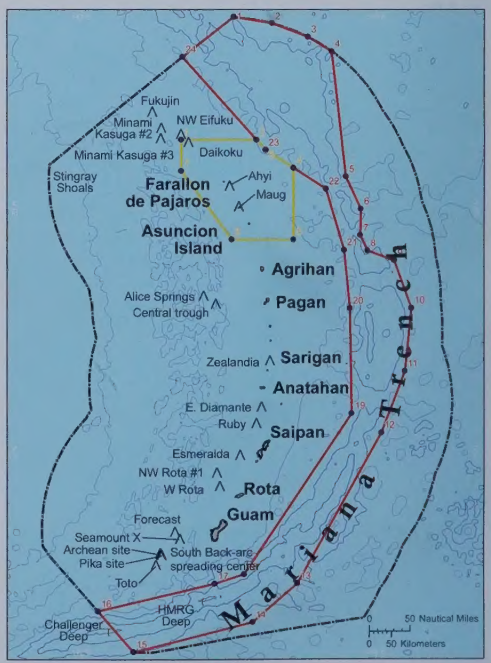
The majority of this catch in Guam will be customarily given away, with no expectation of return.

as a fisherman, but gives no measurable or immediate economic return.

So why are customary exchange and the subsequent flow of fish through communities so important? Why is it so different than trade or barter? Customary exchange is a term we should use as it may help give fishermen from American Samoa, Guam and CNMI continued access to fishing in the waters that are now Marine National Monuments at Rose Atoll and the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench (i.e., Farallon de Pajaros or Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion), respectively. These places were protected as a federally designated National Wildlife Refuge and a CNMI-designated Wildlife Conservation Area, respectively, prior to the monument designations. In addition, under federal management measures developed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, vessels larger than 50-feet are prohibited from fishing within 50 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa, including Rose Atoll, and measures are pending that would prohibit longline fishing within 30 miles of all of the islands of CNMI. Prior to monument designation, other fishermen were able to traditionally access the waters that are now part of the new monuments, but now "commercial fishing" is prohibited. The monument designations were imposed from the top down using the Antiquities Act and avoiding any effective social impact analysis. Fuel costs to reach them safely are high, and if the fishermen could use customary exchange in ways that allow some reimbursement for fuel costs without a profit or "commercial" motive, then they might be able to fish near those islands in grounds that were used traditionally. This formed the basis of the Scientific and Statistical Committee's and Council's recommendations at their March 2010 meetings in Guam and CNMI on proposed fishing regulations for the new monuments. (See page 12).

More generally, the concept and practice of customary exchange better explains why we fish, why we spend what we do, and why giving and sharing fish is so important for us in the Council region. It also shows that the Magnuson Act's clear distinction between purely commercial (defined as the sale, trade or barter of even one fish) and purely recreational fishing without having a subsistence or cultural fishing category creates real problems for our region. We all know how different our fisheries are from the mainland, but it isn't always easy to convince the bureaucracy of that truth.

The objectives of the Council's fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs) include the terms to foster the long-term sustainable use of marine resources in an ecologically and culturally sensitive manner and to provide for the sustained and substantive participation of local communities. Full recognition of the concept of customary exchange and further research on customary exchange and fish flow could help the Council meet these important



The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council supports measures for the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument that would recognize cultural exchange of fish and allow fishermen to engage in the not-for-profit sale of some fish to cover fuel and ice costs necessary to operate in the area.

New Committee to Focus on Marine Spatial Planning

Alan Friedlander, chair, MPA Committee

The recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is making it abundantly clear that there is a pressing need for greater marine spatial planning (MSP) initiatives around the US coasts. As the Gulf spill has illustrated there is a need to develop baselines for spatial zoning and the capacity to respond to extraordinary events such as the petroleum industry disaster in the Gulf. To this end, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has asked the chair of its Marine Protected Area (MPA) Advisory Committee, Dr. Alan Friedlander of the University of Hawaii, to assist in the transformation of this advisory body into a Marine Spatial Planning Committee, with two sub-committees, one for the science aspects and one for management issues related to MSP.

The committee's change from an MPA to an MSP focus also aligns with President Obama's June 12, 2009, Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, establishing an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, charged to develop, with appropriate public input, a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The Council reviewed the list of the proposed MSP Committee membership when it convened June 28 to July 1, 2010, in Honolulu. A MSP policy for the Western Pacific Region is also being developed by the Council.

CNMI Gets Conservation Funds from Illegal Fishing Settlements

Alexa Cole, senior enforcement attorney for NOAA's Pacific Islands Region, took the occasion of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting in June 2010 in Honolulu to present the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) with checks amounting to nearly $55,000 from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE). This sum represents partial payments from the successful prosecution of four Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessels caught illegally fishing in the US exclusive economic zone waters surrounding the CNMI. The CNMI earlier received payments of about $125,000 and is expected to receive an additional $110,000 involving these vessels, which were apprehended by the US Coast Guard when they were illegally fishing during August 2008 and August 2009.

A fifth Taiwanese vessel was prosecuted for illegally fishing in the US EEZ around CNMI in early 2010. The settlement of $140,000, minus any direct enforcement costs, will also be provided to the CNMI in the near future.

CNMI is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to have an approved Marine Conservation Plan before it can receive these funds. The MCP identifies projects for which the funds can be used.

To report a suspected violation to the NOAA OLE, contact the national hotline at (800) 853-1964.

Photo: Alexa Cole, senior enforcement attorney for NOAA's Pacific Islands Region, presents Council Vice Chair Ignacio Dela Cruz, secretary of the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, with nearly $55,000 in checks levied against Taiwanese vessels fishing illegally in US EEZ waters surrounding CNMI.

Council Calls for Marlin Assessment, Marianas Research

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Center (PIFSC) should conduct a stock assessment of blue marlin in collaboration with the relevant institutions and science providers for the regional fishery management organizations in the Pacific. That was the recommendation of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, at its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu.

The most recent stock assessment of Pacific blue marlin, conducted in 2002, concluded that this species was being fished at maximum sustainable yield. A new assessment is scheduled to be conducted in 2012 under the auspices of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, the science provider for the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Closer to home, NMFS PIFSC will include Big Island blue marlin larval retention in a forthcoming Integrated Ecological Assessment. This work may provide additional clues as to why the Kona coast is an important spawning ground for blue marlin.

About 1.2 million pounds of blue marlin are commercially landed each year in Hawaii, and both blue and striped marlin are common items on restaurant menus and in supermarkets. Charter vessels are classed as commercial vessels in Hawaii and are thus able to sell their catches of marlin and other species. Much of the charter and recreational vessel catch is consumed, but catch and release has increased over the past decade. According to the reports in *Hawaii Fishing News*, the landed weight of blue marlin by the Kona charter fleet based out of Honokohau Harbor has decreased from about 55 percent of the overall blue marlin catches in 2000 to about 30 percent in 2008. The Kona Coast is the location of Hawaii's major charter fishery and is known as the "blue marlin capital of the world," playing host to the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament and other major sports fishing competitions.

The Council also made the following recommendations focused on improving data for the fisheries in the Mariana Archipelago:

- Sample landings of the emerging CNMI longline fishery to obtain average weights and length-weight conversion factors so that logbook catches can be expressed as weights.
- Study the apparent correlation between the catch rates of mahimahi and wahoo in the Mariana Archipelago and El Nino-Southern Oscillation events.
- Increase efforts to monitor the recreational catches by military personnel on Guam as these may be significant and will grow substantially as troops redeploy from Okinawa to Guam.

Fred Hegg (in black shirt) of Falmouth Engineering was on Saipan the week of Aug. 2, 2010, to help the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to install telemetric sensors on five buoys. Pictured is the first buoy, deployed for testing purposes. Within minutes, data on water salinity, temperature and current were being captured and transmitted to a laptop onboard the DFW vessel. The buoys will be deployed in September, three inside Saipan lagoon and two about 7 miles west of Saipan. The project is funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council through a grant from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Merged Databases First Step in Setting Catch Shares for Tuna

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, at their June 2010 meetings in Honolulu, heard updates on actions to establish a central database for the Hawaii longline fleet. A single database that contains ownership patterns, sales of vessels and permits, associated catch reports and other characteristics of the fleet will allow development of a reasonable range of alternatives for allocating individual quotas, also known as "catch shares." It will also help quantify the associated socioeconomic effects and identify possible strategies to mitigate negative effects and inequities associated with the alternatives.

The goal is to develop an allocation system that accurately reflects participant involvement in the fishery. The task is complex because permits and vessels change ownership regularly, ownerships can take many forms including permit leasing, and not all vessels are captained by owners.

Staff members from the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have been working to integrate two separate databases to provide the means to allocate catches as outlined. Each database was designed with specific functions in mind, and neither was established to be used for catch allocation.

The NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office Sustainable Fisheries (SF) Permits Program maintains a database that documents permit holders and status of permits, i.e., active (registered to a vessel and renewed) or latent. SF documents permit transfers, but not the nature of the transaction. Furthermore, because permits are identified by the official number of the vessel registered to the permit, the permit number might change. Permits can be issued to an entity that is an individual, partnership or a corporation, company or association comprised of several individuals. Permits may be transferred to an entity that does not own the vessel. There is no limit on how many permits an entity can hold.

The NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center maintains a database that contains longline logbook data. Hawaii vessels are required to complete a daily log sheet for each set. Unlike the permit database, where permit information is concerned with a person or corporation, the logbook data are documented to a specific fishing vessel.

The database custodians and programmers have made substantial progress in integrating the two databases. This initiative used an initial five-year period of 2005-2009 to develop integration and catch compilation methods.

Further, catches need to be allocated to entities based on whether they occurred in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) or the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). These two ocean areas are under the jurisdiction of two international tuna regional fishery management organizations with different catch limits on bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Catch history has to account for catches in both the WCPO and the EPO.

Based on this work, it is now possible to make a preliminary allocation of bigeye and yellowfin catch to individual entities identified in the merged database. Although this is significant progress, increased difficulties may be encountered in developing comprehensive catch histories over the entire time period that permits have been issued (1991-present). Many individuals have come and gone in the years that the longline fishery has been operating and some extraordinary events have occurred, such as the wholesale movement of segments of the fishery to California and back during the periods of litigation over turtles. Allocating shares based on catch history over the entire period of the database thus presents significant challenges.

The SSC and Council will discuss catch shares for the Hawaii longline bigeye tuna fishery when they meet Oct. 6 to 8, 2010, and Oct. 12 to 14, 2010, respectively, in Honolulu. No formal action is anticipated.

American Samoa Longline Measures to Be Amended

Proposed management amendments take into account the changing nature of the American Samoa longline fleet, from predominately small alia catamarans to larger mono-hull vessels.

The American Samoa longline fishery has evolved significantly since its inception in 1994, transforming from a predominantly small scale artisanal fishery using outboard-powered alia catamarans with manual deployment and retrieval of longlines, to a conventional fishery using large mono-hull vessels with mechanized gear. Recognizing these changes, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, at its 148th meeting, June 28 to July 1, 2010, in Honolulu, voted to pursue the following amendments to the American Samoa longline limited entry program contained in the Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP).

- Reduce the current vessel class sizes from four categories to two by combining the current Class A and Class B vessels into a "small" category (less than 50 feet) and Class C and D vessels (50 feet and larger) into a "large" category.
- Modify the three-year minimum landing requirements from 1,000 to 500 pounds for the small vessel category, and keep it at 5,000 pounds for the large vessel category.
- Limit entry to US nationals and US citizens only.

The Council will review and may take further action on this proposed amendment at its 149th meeting, Oct. 11 to 14, 2010, in Honolulu. The Council is expected to take final action at its 150th meeting to be held in March 2011 in American Samoa.

National Saltwater Angler Registry Exemptions Announced

In August 2010, NOAA signed Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) with 10 states and territories formally designating them as exempted under the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program. Under the MOAs, states agree to send their license/registry information to NOAA and to take specific actions as necessary to improve the data over time. American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are included in this first round of MOA. Guam has submitted its signed MOA, but it was not announced in the first round. NOAA may charge saltwater anglers in non-exempt states and territories an annual fee of $18 to $25. For more information, contact Gordon Colvin at Gordon.colvin@noaa.gov or (301) 713-2367.

Council Passes Offshore Aquaculture Measure

At its 148th meeting, June 28 to July 1, 2010, in Honolulu, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council took final action on its recommendations for the management of aquaculture in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters in the Western Pacific Region. The recommended measure would require aquaculture opera-tors to apply for, and receive, a permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service. This measure would be proactive as all offshore aquaculture operations in the Western Pacific Region are currently located within waters under the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii (i.e., 0 to 3 miles offshore). Council recommendations are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval. For more information, contact Council staff Joshua DeMello at (808) 522-7493 or email Joshua.DeMello@noaa.gov.

Aquaculture cage off the Big Island of Hawaii. Photo courtesy of Kona Blue Water Farms, Inc.

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Proposed Precious Coral CITES Listing Fails Again

At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP15) in Doha, Qatar, March 13-25, 2010, a petition to list 31 species of red and pink corals (*Corallium* spp.) on CITES Appendix II failed for the second time. It was disapproved by a vote of 64 in support, 59 opposed and 10 abstentions. A proposal requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass. The petition was initiated by the United States and co-sponsored by the European Union. The United States said it will work with the international community to manage *Corallium* sustainably and may introduce the proposal at future CITES meetings.

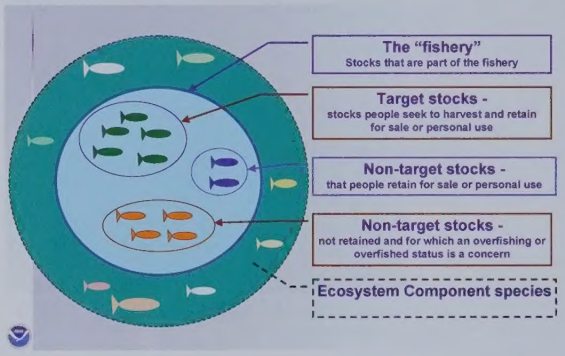
The purpose of CITES is to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild is not reducing wild populations to levels at which survival might be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences. Appendix II includes "species that, although not threatened with extinction now, might become so unless trade in them is strictly controlled and monitored." These species are required to have the appropriate paperwork, including export permits from participating countries, which allows tracking of international trade.

The United States first proposed inclusion of *Corallium* on Appendix II at the CITES COP14 meeting at The Hague (Netherlands), June 3-15, 2007. Following the non-passage of that proposal, the United States geared up for COP15 by holding NOAA led *Corallium* workshops in Hong Kong and Italy. Participants discussed existing management regulations, gaps in science and enforcement issues. During these meetings the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Precious Coral Plan Team provided a white paper on the management of Hawaii's precious coral fishery.

The Council's Precious Corals Fisheries Management Plan for the Western Pacific Region was implemented in 1983. The plan includes permit requirements, harvest quotas for separate beds, a minimum size limit for pink coral, gear restrictions, area restrictions, and fishing seasons. Coral beds are treated as distinct management units and are classified as established beds, conditional beds, exploratory beds and refugia. Quotas are set for pink coral in four conditional beds, in one established bed and in exploratory areas. Legal harvest requires a minimum diameter of 2.54 cm and a height of 25.4 cm. Collection can only be done selectively. Westpac Bed, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, is designated as a refugium with a zero quota. The State of Hawaii also has minimum harvest size and permit requirements for state waters.

For more information, download the *Pacific Islands Fishery Monograph* No. 1 (January 2010): *The Precious Corals Fishery Management Plan of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council* available at www.wpcouncil.org. For a hard copy, contact Council staff Joshua DeMello at (808) 522-7493 or by email at Joshua.DeMello@noaa.gov.

Scientists Tackle Setting Catch Limits for Data Poor Stocks


The "fishery"
Stocks that are part of the fishery
Target stocks -
stocks people seek to harvest and retain for sale or personal use
Non-target stocks -
that people retain for sale or personal use
Non-target stocks -
not retained and for which an overfishing or overfished status is a concern
Ecosystem Component species

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils implement a mechanism to establish annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures for all stocks and stock complexes considered "in the fishery." Exceptions are made for species managed internationally, species with a one-year or less lifespan and ecosystem component species.

To help meet this mandate, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) formed working groups to identify the stocks in the fishery and to develop tier and non-tier systems to determine acceptable biological catches (ABCs) under various data rich and data poor situations. The recommendations from these groups were reviewed by the Council during its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu.

The Council voted to continue to monitor and manage the nearly 800 species taken in Council managed fisheries rather than removing any of them from the management plans. The Council also began defining which species are exempted, which are "in the fishery" and which are under the "ecosystem component." For the pelagic species and species group, the Counciil agreed that most tuna, blue and striped marlin, swordfish, bigeye thresher, shortfin mako, blue shark, mahimahi, ono, opah, monchon, ecolar and oil fish would receive an internationally managed exception. Pacific bluefin tuna, kawakawa, other tuna relatives, black marlin, shortbill spearfish, sailfish, pelagic thresher shark, common thresher shark, silky shark, oceanic white-tip and salmon shark are ecosystem components. Diamondback squid, neon flying squid and purpleback flying squid have life spans of less than one year. To set ABCs for species that are in the fishery, the Council voted to use a four-tier system as the best means for incorporating science into the decision-making process and dealing with different levels of data quality and stock assessment information.

The SSC and Council will continue discussions and are expected to take further action on establishing ACLs for the Western Pacific Region when they convene Oct. 6 to 8, 2010, and Oct. 11 to 14, 2010, respectively, in Honolulu.

The problem of meeting the ACL requirements when data on the stocks are lacking is a problem faced also by other US Regional Fishery Management Councils. To address this issue, the Second National SSC Workshop convened in Nov. 10 to 13, 2009, in the US Virgin Islands and formed the Only Reliable Catch Series (ORCS) Data Analysis Working Group, consisting of scientists across the United States. The ORCS Working Group has been developing a process to determine best approaches to provide ABCs, with associated uncertainty, for stocks or stock complexes when the only reliable data available are catch data and perhaps some biological data (e.g., age at maturity), either directly or via a closely related species or complex proxy. The group has identified future needed research, such as validation of current approaches in use or in the process of being developed, by monitoring performance criteria via application to current fisheries.

The ORCS Working Group coordinator, Dr. Jim Berkson, provided a presentation to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) National Stock Assessment Workshop on May 20, 2010. The group has developed a draft paper that will be submitted as a NMFS Technical Memorandum to be published later this year. The final product will be a "white paper" for Councils to use as guidance in dealing with ORCS.

The Third National SSC Workshop will continue discussions on ACLs and ORCs when it is convened, Oct. 18-22, 2010, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Petitions for ESA Listing of Corals, Parrotfish Are Flawed

Two environmental non-governmental organizations have petitioned for 83 species of coral and the bumphead parrotfish *(Bolbometopon muricatum)*, respectively, to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Review of these petitions by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council reveals that neither petition would provide tangible benefit to the species, but they could severely impact the fishing rights of native and indigenous peoples in the US Flag Pacific Islands. Moreover, it appears that the petitioners are attempting to influence national policy decisions about climate change through the ESA listing process without regard to the statutory ESA listing criteria. The Council did not support such a use of the ESA, particularly when the best available scientific and commercial information does not support a conclusion that the corals or bumphead parrotfish within the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters of the Western Pacific Region are at risk of extinction.

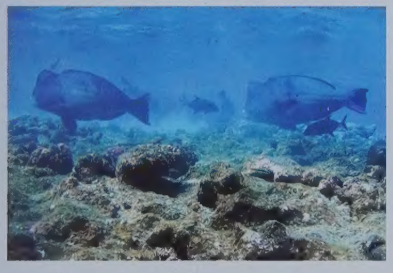
In regards to the Center for Biological Diversity's petition for the coral species, the Council has provided comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the proposed listings are unnecessary, unsubstantiated and impractical.

The Council's Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan implemented in 2001 and incorporated in 2009 into the Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) for the Hawaii Archipelago, American Samoa Archipelago, Mariana Archipelago and Pacific Remote Islands Areas already prohibits the harvest of coral and live rock, as well as the use of destructive gears. These regulations provide ample protection for coral reefs within the US EEZ waters of the Western Pacific Region and across a great arc of the Pacific Ocean, from Micronesia to Polynesia. This protection has been reinforced by Marine National Monument designations for much of this same area.

Much of the analysis of the petition by NMFS focuses on Indo-Pacific coral reefs. Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, more than 50,000 tropical islands are capable of supporting coral reefs, but very few of them have been comprehensively inventoried for coral reef species. Moreover, the petition does not provide an analysis of coral reefs of the US Flag Pacific Islands, where, as noted above, the harvest of coral and live rock is prohibited.

Harvest of coral and live-rock for the aquarium trade in the independent nations of the Pacific Islands is well documented by regional organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and continues to be sustainable. ESA listing would prohibit imports of these corals by the United States, which is the world's largest market for the aquarium trade, and thus diminish economic opportunities in countries that already have a limited economic base.

An ESA listing is more than a paper exercise and brings with it the requirements for the formation of a recovery team, the development of a recovery plan with mandatory periodic reviews, the development of recovery criteria and the need to develop Biological Opinions (BiOps) in the event of takes and interactions. Given the widespread use of coral reefs for fishing by the indigenous people of the US Flag Pacific Islands, there would likely need to be multiple BiOps for each location where these coral are found and establishment of jeopardy thresholds and prescribed takes for a multitude of coral reef fisheries including net fishing, hook-and-line fishing, trap fishing and spear-fishing.



A pair of bumphead parrotfish (Bolbometopon muricatum). *North Horn, Osprey Reef, Coral Sea. Photo courtesy of Richard Ling.*

Given the current level of fishery enforcement activities in this region it is unlikely that the reasonable and prudent alternative for any of these BiOps could be enforced. Further, many of the indigenous peoples of the region continue to exercise their traditional tenure rights over reefs adjacent to their villages and islands.

In regards to WildEarth Guardians' proposal to list the bumphead parrotfish, the Council noted that the petition presented a very limited range of information suggesting that species is in decline, while at the same time acknowledging its abundance in Melanesia, the Great Barrier Reef and locations such as Wake Island. This information is contradicted by other studies and information indicating the species is stable and potentially increasing in abundance in certain areas. The best available scientific and commercial information reviewed by the Council staff did not support a conclusion that the species is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The decline of bumphead parrotfish where these have been documented has been attributed primarily to SCUBA assisted spearfishing. This method of fishing is banned throughout most of the US Flag Pacific islands, either through the Council's FEPs or local regulations. Further, the implementation of Marine National Monuments provides additional protection for this species in the Western Pacific Region and measures have been undertaken to address declines in other locations, such as Palau and the Solomon islands.

Community, Education Projects Ranked for Funding

On May 4 and 5, 2010, the Community Demonstration Projects Program Advisory Panel convened to review applications for funding under the Western Pacific Community Demonstration Project Program (CDPP) and the Western Pacific Marine Education and Training (MET) Mini-Grant Program. The CDPP Advisory Panel consists of Kitara Vaiau and Vaasa Simanu from American Samoa, Lino Olopai and Herman Tudela from the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Peter Perez and Dave Alvarez from Guam, and Gary Beals and William Mossman from Hawaii.

The CDPP is mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Its purpose is to fund projects for the native community that demonstrate fishing practices and fishery conservation and management practices of native people in the Western Pacific. The funds can also be used for economic development projects and feasibility studies for native communities wishing to participate in fisheries managed by the Council. The Advisory Panel reviewed seven CDPP proposals and selected the following four to be supported by the $500,000 of available funding.

- Multicultural Marine Conservation Exchange Demonstration Project, submitted by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant
- Reviving, Demonstrating and Teaching Pre-contact Indigenous Fishing Techniques, submitted by Traditions about Seafaring Islands (TASI), Guam
- Guam American Disability ACt Compliant Fishing Platform, submitted by the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers (GOSA)
- Malama Loko Ea, submitted by Alu Like (Hawaii)

The purpose of the MET Program is to improve communication, education and training on marine resource issues through the Western Pacific Region and increase education for marine-related professions among coastal community residents. Congress appropriated $1 million for the MET program in 2010. These funds were split equally between the National Marine Fisheries Service in Alaska and the Western Pacific Region. Of the $500,000 received for the Western Pacific Region, $350,000 was dispersed to the Council ($92.5K), University of Hawaii Marine Options Program ($50K), University of Hawaii Sea Grant ($50K), Guam 4H and Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association ($25K) and other regional projects. The MET Mini-Grant Program received the remaining $150,000, which will be used to support projects recommended by the CDPP Advisory Panel. The panel recommended that the following nine MET Mini-Grant projects be funded.

- Traditional Fishing on Guam, submitted by the Micronesian Archaeological Research Services
- Maunalua Fishpond Education Project, submitted by Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center
- American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Distance Learning Project, submitted by the ASCC.
- Reef Watch Waikiki, submitted by the University of Hawaii.
- Hui Malama Loko Ia, submitted by Paepae O Heeia (Hawaii)
- CNMI Heritage Awareness Diving Awareness, submitted by Pacific Marine Resources Institute
- Bluewater Education Program, submitted by Kona Community Cultural and Educational Foundation (Hawaii)
- Maunalua User Survey, submitted by the Malama Maunalua (Hawaii)

For more information, contact Council Indigenous Coordinator Charles Kaaiai at charles.kaaiai@noaa.gov or phone (808) 522-8227.

NOAA Seeks Ideas at Enforcement Summit

On Aug. 3, 2010, NOAA held a National Enforcement Summit in response to the Department of Commerce Inspector General's Report of January 2010. The report reviewed the policies and practices of NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) and NOAA Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation. The review was stimulated by concerns raised by members of Congress and elected state officials about reports of heavy-handed and unfair enforcement, particularly in NOAA's Northeast Region.

NOAA's objectives for the summit were to elicit ideas and recommendations for working with constituents and state and federal partners to improve compliance and enhance the effectiveness of its marine-related enforcement activities; NOAA's draft plan for setting national and regional enforcement priorities; improving communications with regulated communities and other stakeholders; and establishing approaches for consistency and transparency that contribute to public confidence in NOAA's enforcement program.

Representing the Western Pacific Region at the Summit were Eric Kingma, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council staff; Ed Ebisui, Council Advisory Panel chair and NOAA Marine Fishery Advisory Committee member; and Bill Pickering, OLE Pacific Islands Region special-agent-in-charge.

NOAA Fisheries OLE is expected to solicit public input on NOAA's draft plan for setting national and regional enforcement priorities at the October 2010 Council meeting in Honolulu.

Territorial Fisheries Measures Could Ensure Safe, Responsible Seafood for Hawaii

Keeping US Pacific island fish on Hawaii tables was on the minds of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council as it agreed during its June 2010 meeting to management measures that would allow the US Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to assign up to 750 mt of bigeye tuna a year each under domestic chartering agreements. Oversight by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is included in the proposed measure.

National quotas for bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) are set by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), to which the United States is a party. Under current WCPFC measures, the United States longline fleet (which is based in Hawaii) is allowed 3,763 mt bigeye tuna and the US Territories are allowed an additional 2,000 mt of bigeye tuna longline landings each. The Territories are exempted from these limits if they are undertaking responsible fisheries development.

Last year, the Hawaii longline fleet reached the WCPO bigeye limit on Dec. 29, 2009. Current forecasts suggest the Hawaii fleet may reach the 2010 quota in late November. The proposed domestic charter arrangements between federally permitted longline vessels in the Western Pacific Region and the US Pacific Island Territories would provide the Territories with much needed fisheries development and ensure Hawaii has quality bigeye tuna from environmentally responsible US sources during the holiday season. The amount of bigeye tuna expected to be harvested under a domestic charter agreement is negligible in terms of bigeye stock status (see page 23).

The demand for bigeye tuna in Hawaii has led to a six-fold increase in imports of this species over the past 10 years (figure 1). The amount of all tuna directly imported into Hawaii has doubled (figure 2). The amount of imported tuna into Hawaii is even greater when factoring in tuna imported indirectly via the West Coast, where it is processed before being flown or shipped to Hawaii.

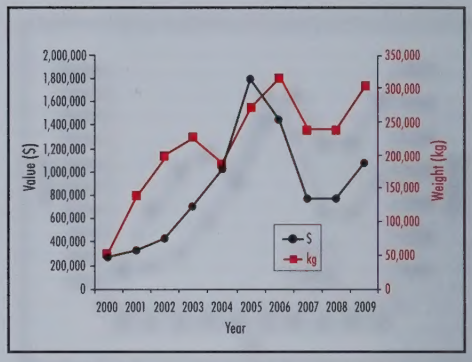


Figure 1: Foreign imports of bigeye into Hawaii, 2000-2009

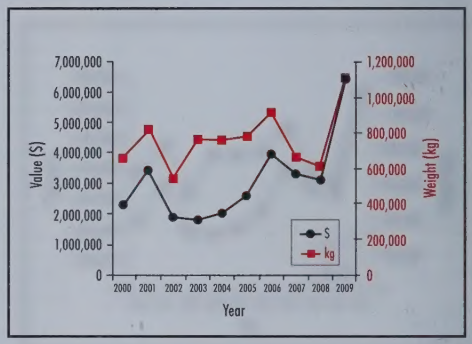


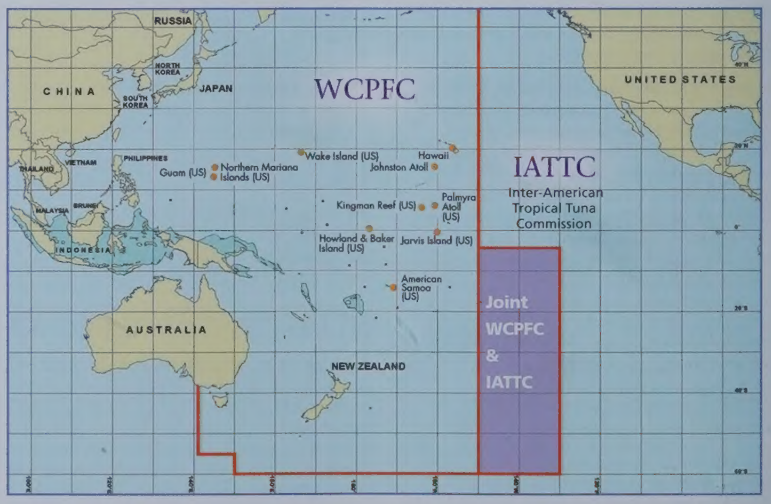
Figure 2: Foreign imports of tuna into Hawaii, 2000-2009

Transshipment Reporting Requirements to Change

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council at its 148th meeting, June 28 to July 1, 2010, in Honolulu, voted to revise current transshipment reporting requirements contained in the Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Western Pacific Region. The intent of the revision is to make these measures consistent with those that have been adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and are anticipated to be implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The Pelagics FEP requires permits for US vessels that receive longline-caught species from other vessels and for the operators of such receiving vessels to maintain logs of these transshipments. The final rule with the requirements was published May 31, 1991. A subsequent amendment specified the information to be contained in the transshipment log.

In December 2009 the WCPFC adopted Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2009-06, "Conservation and Management Measure on the Regulation of Transshipment."



It calls for Commission members to require that operators of their fishing vessels report on transshipments of highly migratory species (HMS) in the Convention Area and transshipments of Convention Area-caught HMS that take place outside the Convention Area. The requirements apply to transshipments both at sea and in port.

NMFS intends to implement the WCPFC reporting requirements for US fishing vessels through regulations issued under the WCPFC Implementation Act. It is expected that those regulations will apply to all US vessels that transship (offload or receive) HMS in the Convention Area or transship Convention Area-caught HMS outside the Convention Area, regardless of the type of gear used to catch the fish, and that a single uniform reporting form would be developed for all vessel types.

International Fishers Forum Agrees to Marine Spatial Planning Steps

The 5th International Fishers Forum (IFF5), held Aug. 2 to 5, 2010, in Taipei City, Taiwan, concluded with approximately 300 participants from fishing industries, governments, academia and conservation organizations declaring their support for a 12-point plan of action on marine spatial planning (MSP) and bycatch mitigation. The actions aim to include the fishing industry in ongoing efforts to use MSP to manage human activities and to continue past IFF efforts to reduce unwanted fishery interactions with sea turtles, seabirds, sharks, non-target finfish and marine mammals.

The United Nations defines MSP as "a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process." MSP can be used as a tool to avoid and minimize conflicts, and sustain ecosystem functioning and services, comparable to land-use planning, but in the ocean. According to the IFF5 declaration, the efforts of the fishing and broader seafood industry to initiate or improve coordination with other industries that use and affect marine resources will contribute to successful mitigation of marine pollution, the spread of invasive alien species, climate change and other factors that adversely affect the fishing industry and marine biodiversity.

IFF5 was co-hosted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Taiwan Fisheries Agency. The IFF first met a decade ago in New Zealand and subsequently convened in Hawaii, Japan and Costa Rica.

Among the actions agreed to at IFF5 are ensuring that the fishing industry has an equitable voice in decisions on MSP and management, that socioeconomic effects on fishing communities are fully considered in MSP activities and that MSP initiatives incorporate mechanisms for reviewing efficacy and response to changing conditions. The declaration also encourages regional fisheries management organizations to identify areas on the high seas and seabed that are of high relative importance to marine biodiversity. The complete declaration in English and Mandarin with action items—as well as program, abstracts and speakers biographies—can be found at www.fishersforum.net.

At the conclusion of the Forum, an award of recognition was given to Geoff McPherson and Tom Nishida for their ongoing investigation of the behavior of the large dolphin commonly referred to as the false killer whale, particularly the echolocation skills employed by these animals as they forage around longlines. A second award was presented to the Government of Taiwan for its decision to ban the whale shark fishery in 2008.

Swordfish Limit May Increase for Tuna Longliners

Hawaii-based vessels setting longline gear deep to target tuna will be able to retain up to 25 incidentally caught swordfish per trip when using circle hooks, under an amendment to the Pelagics Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) passed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council during its June 2010 meeting in Honolulu. The current limit of 10 swordfish per trip will remain for tuna longliners using conventional tuna hooks, also known as J hooks. The swordfish limit per trip would be lifted entirely for tuna longliners that have an observer onboard. Observers are required on 20 percent of deep-setting tuna longline trips.

In making its decision, the Council noted that the trip limit was established to prevent vessels departing ostensibly to deep-set longlines to catch tuna from switching to shallow-set gear to target swordfish. However, the existing measure is unnecessarily duplicative and burdensome for fishermen as existing regulations define deep-set fishing to include minimum float-line length of 20 meters (65.6 feet), no fewer than 15 branch lines set between any two floats, a depth greater than 100 meters (328.1 feet) below the sea surface for the main longline at its deepest point between any two floats, and no light sticks on the vessel. The existing limit also leads to regulatory discards of marketable swordfish and contributes to bycatch of a stock that is healthy and not approaching an overfished or overfishing condition. Based on observer coverage, only half of the swordfish caught in the deep-set tuna fishery are brought to the vessel alive and, under the existing measure, 22 percent of the swordfish captured has been discarded dead.

As a point of comparison, longline vessels targeting swordfish set above 100 meters below the surface and utilize light sticks. Since 2004, they have also been required to use 18/0 circle hooks and mackerel type bait to reduce the number and severity of sea turtle interactions. The required gear has been extremely successful and has been lauded internationally. Based on 100 percent observer coverage, sea turtle interaction levels have been reduced by more than 90 percent and are now the minimum standard for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. If a member nation has documented interaction rates higher than those of the Hawaii shallow-set fishery, it must require large circle hooks and mackerel bait on its shallow-set vessels that target swordfish.

Actual interactions in swordfish fishery since reopening in 2004

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Loggerhead	1	12	17	15	0	3
Leatherback	1	8	5	5	2	9
Olive Ridley	0	0	1	1	2	0
Green	0	0	0	0	1	1

Observers to monitor sea turtle interactions have been aboard every Hawaii longline vessel for all shallow-set swordfish trips since 2004. No killed turtles have been observed.

Meetings Engage Communities in Implementation of Fishery Ecosystem Plans

Among the many features of the June Fishers Forum "Hawaii Seafood: Past, Present and Future" were the Hawaii Aquaculture Association exhibit (above) and cooking demonstrations and tastings from Leeward Community College's culinary arts program.

Human communities

are integral parts of the ecosystem and the reason fisheries are managed. The Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) developed by the Council and approved by the Secretary of Commerce are ecosystem-based, focus on specific places (rather than species) and include broad community input and consideration of traditional knowledge and other factors not typically included in fishery management decision-making. As part of the process to implement the FEPs, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has been holding community meetings throughout the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos.

HAWAII ARCHIPELAGO

Hawaii Community Fishery Workshops engaged fishermen, students and the public throughout January and February 2010, in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; Kaunakakai, Molokai; Kahului, Maui; Honolulu, Oahu; and Lihue, Kauai; and in May 2010 in Hilo, Hawaii. Joining the Council were numerous agencies and organizations that host community-based resource monitoring and outreach programs. Booths about community-based management, bio-sampling, bottomfish and tuna tagging projects, community grant opportunities including the Hawaii Seafood Promotion, the Marine Recreational Information Program and many more were at each of the workshops. Each workshop included two forums to solicit community input on federal fishery initiatives such as catch shares, annual catch limits, community development, marine spatial planning, community-based management, and education and outreach. The workshops were well attended, with 68 participants in Honolulu and 26 to 43 attendees at the other meetings. The participants provided input on issues important in their respective communities, such as offshore aquaculture, public and private fish aggregation devices, the main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery management measures, the Hawaii green sea turtle, federal permit and reporting for non-commercial fishing, non-fishing impacts on the marine environment and traditional fisheries management practices, rights and knowledge.

Fishers Forum on Hawaii Seafood: Past, Present and Future was held on June 29, 2010, in Honolulu, in conjunction with the 148th Council meeting. Local experts, renowned chefs, scientists, fishery managers, the Department of Health and others shared their knowledge about Hawaii seafood, sustainable fisheries, imports, health concerns, and future supplies. The event included cooking demonstrations, informational booths and a series of short presentations followed by pubic discussion.

Ho`o Lei Ia Puwalu (Lay the net to bring everyone together conference series) kicked off in mid-August. Workshops are being held for each of the main islands (mokupuni) in the Hawaii Archipelago before culminating in a statewide meeting on Oahu in November 2010. The series continues efforts begun with the 2006-2007 Ho`ohanohano I Na Kupuna (Honor Our Ancestors) Puwalu to enhance the involvement of Native Hawaiian communities in fisheries management and to integrate traditional natural resource management practices into contemporary management processes. The current Puwalu additionally brings non-Native fishing communities and other interested parties into the discussion. The agenda includes review of past meetings with Native Hawaiian and fishing communities followed by workshops on five best practices of traditional management identified by the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC) in their 2009 report to the Hawaii State

An exhibit on bio-sampling (top left) interested participants at fishing, community and student meetings held throughout the Western Pacific Region. At the June Fishers Forum, about 150 participants learned about Hawaii's seafood industry through a panel of speakers and more than a dozen booths, including those provided by the Council's Hawaii Summer Course on Marine Fisheries and Resources (top right), Kapiolani Community College's Culinary Institute of the Pacific (bottom left) and the Hawaii Seafood Project (bottom right).

Legislature. The AKAC was formed by the Legislature and approved by Gov. Linda Lingle in 2007 as an indirect outcome of the Hoohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu. The five pillars identified by the AKAC include adaptive management, code of conduct, community consultation, education, and eligibility criteria to participate in natural resource management. The workshops facilitate discussion on processes to implement these five factors within the specified community.

MARIANA ARCHIPELAGO

Community consultation meetings and a Fishers Forum in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) were held in March 2010. Each community meeting began with demonstrations of traditional fishing methods followed by a public forum. The agenda included federal bottomfish fishing permit requirements, fishery management measures for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (MNM), community-based management, community grant opportunities, and the Mariana Archipelago lunar calendar and fishing almanac. More than 30 persons attended the event at the Rota Round House, where Rota residents Stan Taisacan and Kevin Atalig demonstrated talaya and gadas styles of fishing. About a dozen persons attended the demonstration and community meeting held at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, and another dozen gathered at the Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saipan. Both meetings began with Herman Tudela of Saipan demonstrating talaya and a one-handed version of talaya. Public comments at the meetings indicate the need for more community outreach by the Council and various federal agencies. The Fishers Forum held in conjunction with the 147th Council meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saipan included an array of booths on biosampling, tagging, protected species and other subjects of interest to fishermen.

Community consultation meetings in Guam held in August 2010 for the villages of Merizo and Santa Rita included workshops on fishery management, data collection and bio-sampling designed to encourage participation in village-based fishery management programs. The Council also held a Fishers Forum in conjunction with the 147th Council meeting in March 2010 at the Guam Hilton at Tumon Bay, similar to the CNMI Fishers Forum.

AMERICAN SAMOA ARCHIPELAGO

Public hearings were held in American Samoa during the Council's Advisory Panel meeting on April 19, Plan Team meeting on April 20, and Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee meeting on April 21. Major issues that were discussed included annual catch limits, offshore aquaculture, catch shares, modifications to the American Samoa longline limited entry program, fishing in the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument waters, fisheries development and cooperative research priorities. Council staff also made presentations on bio-sampling, Fishbox.org and ecosystem indicators. In addition to the formal meetings, the Council chair and executive director were able to meet with representatives from Manua on April 22 to discuss fishery development projects and issues pertaining to fishing at Rose Atoll. The Council plans to hold further community meetings in American Samoa in March 2011, in conjunction with the 151st Council meeting, which will be convened in the territory.

Council Agrees on Fishing Measures for New Marine Monuments

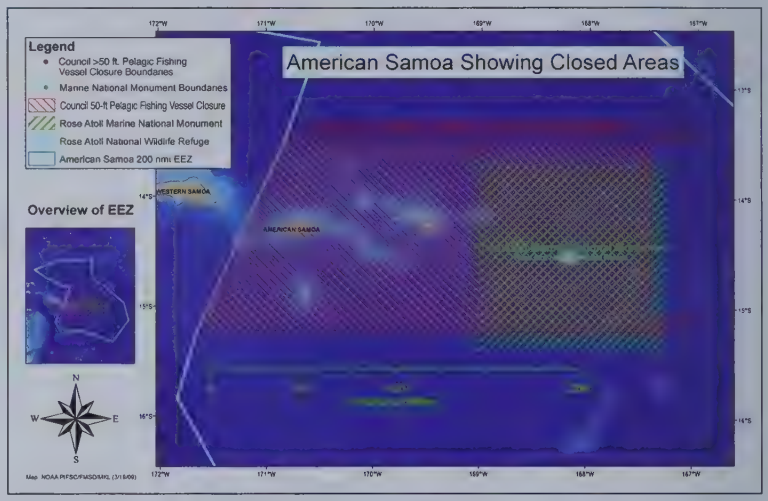
In January 2009, then President George W. Bush issued Proclamations 8335, 8336 and 8337 establishing the Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll Marine National Monuments (MNMs), respectively. In the Proclamations, the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior were instructed to allow non-commercial fishing activities under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and to prohibit commercial fishing 0-50 nm around the islands of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion (i.e., the "Islands Unit") in the Mariana Archipelago; 0-50 nm around the islands of Wake, Johnston, Jarvis, Howland, Baker, Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs); and 0-50 nm around Rose Atoll in the American Samoa Archipelago. In following the MSA, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council took final action at its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu to amend the Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) for the Mariana Archipelago, American Samoa Archipelago and the PRIAs to prohibit commercial fishing and to allow for non-commercial fishing in these MNMs as follows:

General Definitions for MNMs

- **Non-commercial Fishing:** Does not meet the MSA definition of commercial fishing and includes, but is not limited to, sustenance, subsistence, traditional indigenous and recreational fishing.
- **Recreational Fishing:** Conducted for sport or pleasure including for-hire charter fishing.
- **Customary Exchange:** Non-market exchange of marine resources between fishers and community residents for goods, services and/or social support for cultural, social or religious reasons, and may include cost recovery through monetary reimbursements and other means for actual trip expenses (e.g., ice, bait, food, fuel) that may be necessary to participate in fisheries in the Western Pacific Region.

Rose Atoll MNM

- **No-take/no-fishing area:** 0-12 nautical miles (nm) around Rose Atoll; Council to review the regulations after three-years; non-commercial fishing outside the no-fishing area.
- **Non-commercial fishing permits:** Valid for one year after issuance; for vessel owners and operators; carried on board the vessel; limited to residents of the American Samoa fishing community; American Samoa DMWR included in the administration and monitoring of permits.
- **Fishing logbook:** Filled by the permitted fishing vessel operator; both the permitted owner and operator to ensure that logbooks for all fishing conducted on the vessel used to fish in the Monument is submitted within 30 days to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR); American Samoa DMWR included in the administration and monitoring of logbooks.
- **Recreational charter for-hire fishing:** Separate permit and logbook requirements to monitor the sustainability of this type of fishing as well as potentially limit the number of participants; limited to owners and operators of a charter business legally established in the American Samoa fishing community.
- **Customary exchange of harvested fish:** Allowed by non-commercial fishermen, except recreational fishermen; to include family and friends of residents of the American Samoa fishing community; fishery participants conducting customary exchange not required to report monetary reimbursements nor trip expenses due to anticipated behavioral modifications that would impact cultural practices related to the motivations of customary exchange.



Marianas Trench MNM "Islands Unit"

- **Non-commercial fishing permits:** Valid for one year after issuance; for vessel owners and operators; carried on board the vessel; limited to residents of Guam and CNMI fishing communities only; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) included in the administration and monitoring of permits.
- **Fishing logbook:** Filled by the permitted fishing vessel operator; both the permitted owner and operator to ensure that logbooks for all fishing conducted on the vessel used to fish in the Monument is submitted within 30 days to NMFS or the CNMI DFW; CNMI DFW included in the administration and monitoring of logbooks.
- **Recreational charter for-hire fishing:** Separate permit and logbook requirements to monitor the sustainability of this type of fishing as well as potentially limit the number of participants; limited to owners and operators of a charter business legally established in either the Guam or CNMI fishing community.
- **Customary exchange of harvested fish:** Allowed by non-commercial fishermen, except recreational fishermen; to include family and friends of residents of Guam and CNMI fishing communities; fishery participants conducting customary exchange not required to report monetary reimbursements nor trip expenses due to anticipated behavioral modifications that would impact cultural practices related to the motivations of customary exchange.
- **Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council:** Guam represented as an observer.

Pacific Remote Islands MNM

- **No-take/no-fishing marine protected areas:** 0-12 nm around Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands; Kingman Reef; and Johnston, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; non-commercial fishing outside the no-fishing area.
- **Recreational charter for-hire fishing:** Separate permit and logbook requirements to monitor the sustainability of this type of fishing as well as potentially limit the number of participants; catch prohibited from being marketed (for sale, barter or trade) and from customary exchange.
- **Existing federal permit and logbook requirements:** Maintain for fishery participants targeting pelagic species; US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), for purposes of consistency, to adopt or continue these permit and reporting requirements for areas under their jurisdiction.
- **Comprehensive outreach, education and compliance program:** NMFS and USFWS to work on these for potential fishermen, visitors and researchers who spend time in the monument.

Council recommendations are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

World Heritage Site Designation for NWHI Marine Monument Questioned

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) delegates to the 34th World Heritage Convention meeting July 25 to Aug. 3, 2010, in Brasilia, Brazil, turned a deaf ear to recommendations by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and several Native Hawaiian groups and instead agreed to immediately inscribe Papaha¯naumokua¯kea Marine National Monument as a mixed (natural and cultural) World Heritage Site. The area spans the entire Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (i.e., about two-thirds of the Hawaii Archipelago) and includes nearly 140,000 square miles of water that contain Hawaii's healthiest, highly productive and most stringently managed bottomfish grounds as well as Native Hawaiian traditional fishing and gathering areas.

As detailed in its March 28, 2008, public comments on the nomination, the Council questions the transparency of the process to include public participation, the need to clearly provide the purpose and need or objective of the designation, and the role of the National Park Service administrative authorities and related jurisdictional issues. The Council's written comments concluded that "based on currently available information the NWHI should not be nominated as a World Heritage Site because such sites are known to become a tourism focus, with no promise of funding or legal restrictions to control or mitigate the impacts of increased visitors. This would be highly adverse to the sensitive and largely untouched NWHI ecosystem which is home to critically endangered monk seal and short-tailed albatrosses as well as sea turtles and other seabirds listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. If it is to be considered for nomination, a full analysis of the expected impacts (both positive and negative) on the NWHI ecosystem should be conducted and circulated for public comment prior to nomination." This analysis has not been carried out and widely distributed for public comment.

During its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu, the Council reiterated its concern about the UNESCO World Heritage nomination for the NWHI. Council member Manny Duenas recalled that, following the announcement of the nomination, Jean-Michel Cousteau said the area was destined to attract 3 million tourists. In contrast, Duenas also remembered, a young native Hawaiian fisherman came before the Council and expressed his concern that, as the son of a NWHI permitted bottomfish fisherman, he wanted to carry on the fishing tradition and legacy of his father and his grandfather. He could not understand why he would not be allowed to continue to fish especially since the fishery has no impact on the NWHI resources and has undergone strict monitoring. These two divergent perspectives speak to the need for more information and stakeholder participation in the decision-making process for the NWHI.

Source: Papahānaumokuākea MNM Management Plan (December 2008)

The monument in the NWHI was created through the use of the Antiquities Act by Presidential Executive Order in 2006. It was initially established as the NWHI Marine National Monument and renamed Papahā naumokuākea in 2007. The monument proclamation stopped a five-year public and scientific process to create a NWHI Marine National Sanctuary and closed the NWHI bottomfish fishery along with all other commercial and recreational fisheries. It allowed cultural fishing by permit but required that consumption of the harvested fish occur within the monument and not be taken back to families and the community. To date, only two cultural permits have been issued, one to a US government agency and the other to the University of Hawaii.

The NWHI MNM is larger than 46 states, seven times larger than all of the US national marine sanctuaries combined, larger than all of America's national parks combined and nearly 100 times larger than Yosemite National Park.

Public Comment Period Open for Hancock Seamounts Measures

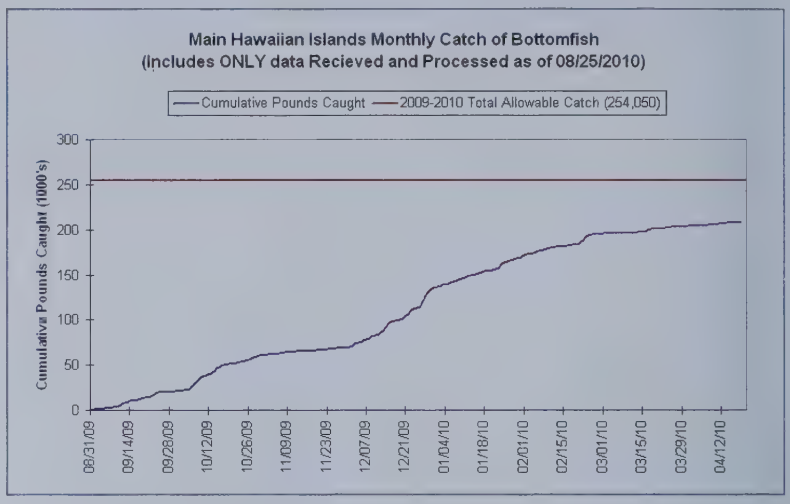
The National Marine Fisheries Service is accepting public comment on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's recommendation to include new management measures for the Hancock Seamounts in an amended Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, Amendment 2 would continue a moratorium on fishing at Hancock Seamounts, located at the far northwestern extremity of the Hawaii Archipelago, for armorhead *(Pseudopentaceros wheeleri)* and other bottomfish and seamount groundfish until the armorhead stock is rebuilt, establish a minimum rebuilding time of 35 years for the US portion of the armorhead stock, and classify the portion of the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the Hancock Seamounts as an ecosystem management area. This area is outside the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Armorhead fish (Pseudopentaceros wheeleri) *are most common in the northernmost part of the Hawaiian Archipelago and are potential prey for monk seals. Pisces IV Pilot Photo: Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory 2003 (Project lead Frank Parrish)*

The intent of this amendment is to rebuild the overfished armorhead stock, which was overfished by foreign fleets prior to the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which created the US EEZ and the US Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Comments on the proposed rule are due Oct. 14, 2010. Comments on the proposed amendment are due Oct. 18, 2010. For copies of the Federal Register notices, go to www.wpcouncil.org/news/FedRegNotices.html.

Hawaii Bottomfish Limit to Stay at Same Level



Hawaii seafood consumers can expect to enjoy slightly more local bottomfish from the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) during the 2010-2011 MHI bottomfish season than they did during the 2009-2010 season. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, during its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu, voted to keep the 2010-2011 commercial MHI bottomfish total allowable catch (TAC) at 254,050 pounds—the same as the 2009-2010 season. They also voted on other measures to help ensure that the state and federal governments do not prematurely close the fishery before the TAC is reached, as was done during the 2009-2010 season.

The seven species covered are onaga, ehu, kalekale, opakapaka, gindai, hapuupuu and lehi. When the commercial MHI bottomfish TAC is reached, the non-commercial fishery (recreational, subsistence, cultural) as well as the commercial MHI bottomfish fishery are closed in both state and federal waters.

The 2009-2010 MHI bottomfish fisheries closed on April 20, 2010. The total accumulated catch was 224,000 pounds (about 88 percent of the TAC). The new fishing year opened on Sept. 1, 2010, and will run until Aug. 31, 2011, or until the 2010-2011 TAC is reached, whichever comes first.

The premature closing of the fisheries in the 2009-2010 season was due to Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (HDAR) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) inadvertently double-counting catch reports submitted both online and on paper. To ensure that the fisheries are not closed prematurely again, the Council voted for the establishment of a Hawaii Bottomfish Advisory Review Board consisting of representatives from the bottomfish fishing community throughout the MHI, from the seafood processor and marketing communities, and from the NMFS and HDAR who are on the Council's Plan Team for the Hawaii Fishery Ecosystem Plan. The Board will review available bottomfish landing and sales data, consider recent fishery performance and provide guidance to the Bottomfish Principals Group. This latter group determines the closure date if the TAC is expected to be reached prior to the end of the season. Members of the group include the NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office regional administrator, NMFS Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center director, HDAR administrator and Council executive director.

The MHI is currently the only source of local bottomfish, following the closure of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) bottomfish fishery earlier this year, due to the establishment of the Papahānaumokuā kea Marine National Monument. The NWHI historically provided about half of the local bottomfish landings.

Among the other Hawaii bottomfish decisions made by the Council at the meeting are the following:

- Work with NMFS to change the federal MHI bottomfish fishery closure notice to include a seven-day notice instead of the 14-day delay that has been used in closing the fishery in previous years.
- Support the continued future monitoring of the NWHI bottomfish fishery; recommend that the NWHI monument provide a report on the level of sustenance fishing for bottomfish in the NWHI; and support monitoring of the NWHI bottomfish resource through experimental or cooperative fishing research.
- Work with NMFS and the State of Hawaii to continue education and outreach efforts to support the MHI bottomfish fishery management program emphasizing the importance of collecting fishery data for the monitoring and management of this fishery.
- Have the Council's Plan Team look at a way to obtain non-commercial bottomfish fishery data from State waters that will complement the federal non-commercial permit and reporting requirement.
- Request that the State of Hawaii provide a report on the effectiveness of its Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs) as evaluated in 2006 and consider the elimination of the BRFAs as the fishery is now managed through the MHI Bottomfish TAC.
- Request that NMFS evaluate the impact of the BRFAs and NWHI bottomfish closure on Hawaii archipelago bottomfish stocks.

Youth to Receive Non-Commercial Fishing Permit Exemption

Youth who catch bottomfish in Hawaii's offshore waters recreationally or for subsistence may soon be able to save $24 a year. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council voted on June 30, 2010, to recommend exempting persons 16 years and younger from non-commercial federal permit requirements. Currently, the only such permit is the annual federal main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) Non-Commercial Bottomfish Permit, which is required of all non-commercial fishermen, with the exception of charterboat customers, who target bottomfish in waters 3 to 200 miles offshore around the MHI. A non-refundable processing fee of $24 is charged for each permit application.

The MHI Non-commercial Bottomfish Permit regulation first came into effect in August 2008. It is part of the suite of measures established to ensure the health and sustainable harvest of MHI bottomfish stocks. The permit includes reporting requirements that provide fishery scientists and managers with non-commercial fishing catch and effort information. Vessel operators in the fishery must report their bottomfish fishing activities to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Because non-commercial bottomfish data have been lacking, this sector of the fishery is managed federally through bag limits and by a seasonal closure that is triggered when the commercial sector reaches its annual total allowable catch (TAC) limit. The State of Hawaii, which has jurisdiction in waters 0 to 3 miles from shore, has a complementary seasonal closure. Its Board of Land and Natural Resources approved complementary bag limits at its July 8, 2010, meeting. The State does not have a permit requirement but does have a set of Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs).

Loggerhead Project Approved, Proposed ESA Listing Questioned

Nesting beach management for the North Pacific loggerhead turtles *(Caretta caretta)* in Japan will continue to be funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council for the seventh year. The Council made the decision at its June 28 to July 1, 2010, meeting in Honolulu. It supported egg relocation where appropriate as part of the project, but acknowledged

Loggerhead turtles interacting with Hawaii-based longline fisheries belong to North Pacific Ocean DPS, now listed as threatened with a proposed rule to change this to endangered.

the need to determine whether relocating "doomed" nests are resulting in an overall positive recruitment and is a valid conservation strategy for the program in Japan. Doomed nests are those that would have resulted in high mortality rates due to inundation, predation or other threats. In 2009, more than 20 percent of the nests at the four major nesting sites in Japan were relocated to protect them from inundation and to increase hatchling production.

In making its decision, the Council endorsed the recommendation of its Sea Turtle Advisory Committee (STAC), which had met March 30-31, 2010, in Honolulu. Members include Milani Chaloupka (chair), Ecological Modeling Services (Australia); George Balazs, NMFS PIFSC (Hawaii); Peter Dutton, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (California); Naoki Kamezaki, Sea Turtle Association of Japan (Japan); Colin Limpus, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (Australia); Nicolas Pilcher, Marine Research Foundation (Malaysia); Jeffrey Polovina, NMFS PIFSC (Hawaii); and Raquel Briseno Duenas, Unidad Academica Mazatlan (Mexico).

The Council, also at the STAC's recommendation, responded to the March 16, 2010, proposed rule jointly published by NMFS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list loggerhead sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in nine Distinct Population Segments (DPSs), with seven of the nine proposed for an uplisting from their current "threatened" status to "endangered." Included in the proposed endangered listing is the North Pacific Ocean DPS, which nests exclusively in Japan and migrates as far east as Baja California Sur, Mexico. Loggerhead turtles interacting with the Hawaii-based shallow-set longline fishery for swordfish belong to this DPS.

The proposed rule was based on a 2009 Status Review conducted by Loggerhead Biological Review Team (BRT). It concluded that loggerhead turtles around the world can be separated into nine population groups that are substantially discrete from one another based on ecological, behavioral and oceanographic factors and genetic evidence. The BRT analyzed whether each of the DPS is at risk of extinction. The analyses for the North Pacific Ocean DPS used nesting trend data from 1990-2007 and current known biological information and threats. It showed that the DPS appears to be declining, is at risk and thus likely to decline in the future.

The Council said the proposal to list North Pacific Ocean DPS as endangered is derived from deficient scientific information, such as sex ratios, age of maturity and other demographic data. These results also did not take into consideration the threefold increase in nesting in 2008 and 2009 that followed the relatively low nesting in 2006 and 2007 and the possible recovering nesting trend in Japan since the mid-1990s.

Moreover, much of the current risks to the North Pacific loggerheads occur beyond the jurisdiction of the ESA (e.g., Mexico, Japan and high-seas fisheries). Mortality of loggerhead turtles in US fisheries (where the ESA applies) has been dramatically reduced in the last decade. Both Hawaii and California fisheries operate under various regulations to protect sea turtles. For example, the Hawaii longline fishery for swordfish has decreased its turtle interactions by 90 percent and shuts down if its annual sea turtle interaction rate reaches either 46 loggerheads or 16 leatherbacks. Between 2004 and 2008, the annual rate has fluctuated between 0 and 17 loggerheads, with no killed turtles observed in the fishery. Current fisheries risks to the North Pacific loggerheads remain in coastal fisheries in Japan and Mexico, although progress is being made to reduce their impacts to sea turtle populations.

In 2009, more than 20 percent of the loggerhead nests at the four major nesting sites in Japan were relocated to protect them.

The public comment period for the proposed rule ended on Sept. 13, 2010. NMFS and USFWS will review received comments and information, and are expected to publish a final rule in the spring of 2011.

False Killer Whale Team Reaches Consensus

Fishermen listen intently to marine mammal biologist Erin Oleson (standing, left) at the informational meeting held jointly by the National Marine Fisheries Service and Hawaii Longline Association following the April meeting of the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team.

On July 19, 2010, the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) reached consensus on a draft plan to reduce false killer whale bycatch in the Hawaii-based longline fleet. Changes to hook type and gear as well as possible area closures are among the key recommendations. Experiments, research and mandatory marine mammal handling and release training are also included. The draft plan is currently being considered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as it develops proposed regulations and collects public comment before developing a final plan.

The False Killer Whale TRT was established in January 2010 by NMFS as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act in response to continuing interactions in the Hawaii longline fisheries. The TRT consists of more than 20 designated members representing various expertise and stakeholders, including four longline industry representatives and senior scientist Paul Dalzell of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The TRT met in February, April, June and July 2010.

Following the April meeting, NMFS and the Hawaii Longline Association jointly held an informational meeting with longline fishermen to discuss the progress of the TRT. Concerned about the possible impacts to their livelihood, many fishermen gathered to hear about identified solutions, ask questions and offer input.

The Draft Take Reduction Plan is available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr. More information about the TRT, along with meeting summaries and other documents, is available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/falsekillerwhale.htm.

Fishermen Identify Needed Action at Recreational Summit

The Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit drew more than 160 people from around the country to Alexandria, Virginia, on April 16 and 17, 2010, to share ideas about what NOAA should be doing to support recreational fisheries. Participants from the Western Pacific Region included Richard Seman (Saipan), Jeff Shively (American Samoa), Roy Morioka (Hawaii), Kitty Simonds (executive director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council), and Ed Watamura and Craig Severance, newly appointed member from Hawaii to the Recreational Fisheries Working Group (RFWG) of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). As members of the RFWG, Severance and Watamura provide MAFAC and the NOAA leadership with advice on recreational fishing issues in the Western Pacific Region as well as help support NOAA in its efforts to carry out the action plans developed during the Summit.

Participants from the Western Pacific Region at the Recreational Fishing Summit included, among others, (seated l-r) WPRFMC Executive Director Kitty Simonds and RFWG member Craig Severance, and (standing l-r) Marianas Fishing Magazine publisher Richard Seman, RFWG member Ed Watamura and Roy Morioka.

During her keynote address, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco said her commitment to recreational fishing is demonstrated by the National Marine Fisheries Service-sponsored Summit itself, by her appointment of Russell Dunn as national policy advisor for recreational fisheries, by her assignment of Andy Winer as external affairs director and by the appointment of the RFWG. There were other presentations on pressing issues facing the various regions.

During his luncheon remarks, Severance stressed that the Western Pacific Region is a unique part of the country. The inhabitants live on islands surrounded by deep oceans, and the islands and archipelagoes are recognized as fishing communities by NOAA. Fishing and sharing fish has enormous cultural and ceremonial significance to the cultures of the region, especially to the indigenous people. Severance noted that the new Marine National Monuments were imposed from the top down without adequate consultation with fishermen and that this was viewed as a federal intrusion and as a major regional concern. He also introduced the concept of "customary exchange," which is especially important to the indigenous peoples of the US Pacific Islands (see cover article of this issue).

The second day of the Summit was a facilitated discussion and rating exercise focused on the visions of success themes for the conference that were developed through a pre-summit survey. Tables were assigned one of four success themes, and potentially supporting actions were developed and then rated by each table. The themes were

1) improved open communications, cooperation and trusting interactions;

2) much improved, robust, timely and accurate data and science;

3) fishery management decisions based on a more complete understanding of the social and economic contributions of both the recreational and commercial fisheries communities; and

4) ensure access to the greatest possible range of recreational fishing opportunities.

The report on the themes, proposed actions and ratings is available at http://consensus.fsu.edu/Saltwater-Recreational-Fishing/index.html. The highest ranked actions needed across all themes and challenges were

1) integrate value of recreational fishing into the NOAA mission;

2) improved social and economic data;
3) recognize uniqueness of recreational fisheries;

4) better representation of recreational fisheries on the Regional Fishery Management Councils; and

5) increased recreational authority within the marine spatial process.

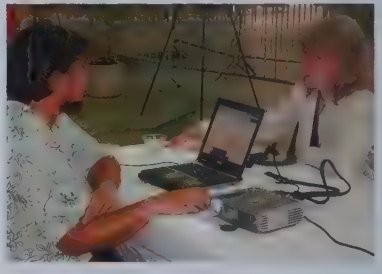
It is too early to tell whether this summit will lead to actual protection and improvement of recreational (and, in our region, cultural) fishing opportunities. As Morioka pointed out from the audience during the closing, there had been very little effective NOAA action following the 2005 Summit and Strategic Plan, and NOAA now needs to prove its commitment by concrete outcomes.

Editor's note: This article is based on one co-written by Craig Severance, Ed Watamura and Roy Morioka for the Marianas Fishing Magazine.

New Website Gives Fishermen Planning Resources

Planning a fishing trip this coming weekend? Need to check the weather and sea surface temperatures one more time before you trailer your boat down to the harbor at 4 a.m. for a day of fishing? Now there is a one-stop-shop where you find links to useful fishing information without having to bookmark or drill deep into a government website to find that key information needed to plan your fishing trip. To get the latest updates on local weather conditions, surf reports, sea surface temperatures, tides, market reports and much more, visit www.fishbox.org.

Successful fishermen keep track of their fishing experiences, both good and bad. Many old timers kept logs of their fishing trips in notebooks or on scratch paper. Some just kept it locked away in their head. Fishbox.org offers fishermen an online tool to keep track of their individual fishing records and generate reports in a variety of formats that are useful to them. Log in to set up you personal account, and then start recording and tracking your fishing history and key environmental conditions to improve your fishing success.



Joshua DeMello demonstrates Fishbox.org at the Council's June Fishers Forum in Honolulu

Fishermen who want to help improve the management of our fisheries can select the forum feature to share important information with scientists on tag recapture, barbless hook success, key life history data and more.

The next time you go fishing, check out Fishbox.org to plan your next trip and record and track your fishing success. It's easy, and it can give us all more information to work with.

Guam Now Home to Three Fishing Groups

Guam has a new fishing group to join the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (GFCA) and the Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation (MUFF). The Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers (GOSA) has a growing membership of primarily shoreline fishermen who have organized in response to the decreasing access to the island's coastal resources. Like GFCA and MUFF, GOSA desires to promote and perpetuate the island fishing culture and to provide learning opportunities for new fishermen, their own members and the rest of the island community.

Team Sugar Water Purple (pictured here) was the overall winner of the 2010 GOSA Mafuti and Lililok Challenge. Team Captain Craig Sourgose also won the prize for the largest mafuti (Lethrinus rubrioperculatus)*, also known as the redgill emperor fish.*

2010 GFCA board of directors): 2010 Guam Fisherman's Cooperative Association board members (l-r) Dale Alvarez, Manuel P. Duenas, Alan Ainbinder, Peter Kautz, Bill Bradford, Victor Artero and James Borja.

GOSA held its first tournament, the GOSA Mafuti and Lililok Challenge on March 27 and 28, 2010. On the last day, Hawaii biologist Karen Underkoffler of NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and the University of Hawaii Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research treated the fishermen and onlookers to a demonstration of bio-sampling, extracting the otoliths from a couple of fish for further study. The pictures of the tournament and the otoliths samples with their respective data (species, length, weight and age) may be found at the GOSA website at www.guamanglers.org.

The GOSA Board of Directors include Tom Camacho (president), Peter Gervacio (1st vice president), Ray Guerrero (2nd vice president), Sonny Cruz (treasurer), Joe Jardel (secretary), Frank Rosario (sergeant at arms) and Johnny "Atulai" Taitano (immediate past president). Aspiring new members or inquiring minds may go to the GOSA website to get more information, join or contact the organization.

The Guam Fisherman's Cooperative Association held its annual membership meeting on Jan. 24, 2010, which included the election of a new Board of Directors. The new directors include Manuel P. Duenas (president), Dale Alvarez (vice president), Jesse Rosario (secretary), Harris Hiura (treasurer), James Borja, Victor Artero, Peter Kautz, William Bradford and Alan Ainbinder. During the event, John Calvo, Guam on-site coordinator for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, provided information about the Council and the Volunteer Data Collection Program. During the meeting the Council was recognized for its continued support of the association.

Capt. Jack Hindmarsh and crew of the Bellerophon *with their 252-pound blue marlin.*

I'a Lapo'a Fishing Tournament Held in American Samoa

The 11th Steinlager I'a Lapo'a Game Fishing Tournament, an all-species extravaganza, was a huge success for the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association and brought much needed tourist revenue to American Samoa. The 22 registered boats included a dozen from over seas, with 60 of the more than 100 contestants hailing from New Zealand, Australia and Samoa.

Due to inclement weather, the tournament began and ended later than scheduled with boats heading out Friday, May 21, and fishing until 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, 2010. Although a few small boats could not make it out, the majority were able to fish for two and half days during which they landed the tournament's largest marlin ever and the most marlin in one day.

Christine Elminger on the fishing vessel *Brave Heart* reeled in the top marlin, a 406-pound black. The tournament, for the first time ever, was a qualifying event for the International Game Fishing Association Off Shore World Championship, and Christine's catch qualified *Brave Heart* for the 2011 championship to be held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

On the day that Christine landed her trophy fish, there were two other marlin brought to the pole for weigh in—the smallest of which was 252 pounds. There were also four fish tagged and released—two marlin, a sailfish and a spearfish.

Lady Seale, skippered by Joseph Peterson (Western Samoa), was the winning team for the most points. *Brave Heart*, skippered by Clyde Fraser (NZ), took second, followed by *Girl Friend*, with Timothy Dromgool as captain (NZ) in third.

Numerous organizations, including the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, sponsored or supported the event. The Pago Pago Game Fishing Association gave away around $20,000 in prizes, including a thousand dollars and special trophy from the American Samoa Visitors Bureau.

"The contestants commented on the tournament's exceptional hospitality," noted Peter Crispin of the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association. "Interest in the tournament is growing, and the US West Coast has expressed interest in participating in next year's event."

2010 Lunar Calendar Celebrates Marianas Native Resources

Famaguon Guahan (Children of Guam) dancers prepare to perform.

The Lunar Calendar Committees of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which include both Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultural experts, united to create a joint 2010 Mariana Archipelago Lunar Calendar. The two committees worked hard to develop the fishing seasons and tide charts for the calendar, to organize the archipelago-wide K–12 student art contests for the artwork that graces the calendar and to plan for the 2nd Annual Gupot Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru (Chamorro Lunar Calendar Festival), an all-day event held Feb. 13, 2010, on Guam.

Toni Ramirez of the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation assists a guest.

The theme of the art competition and the festival was "Fino' Gualåffon: Sinostienen Guinahan Natibon Mari'ånas" (Moonlight Talk: Sustaining the Marianas Native Resources). This theme encouraged discussion on sustainable use of land and ocean resources, the lunar cycles that affect them and their interrelationship with the people and the culture of the Marianas. Teachers were encouraged to include the art contest in their lesson plans pertaining to ecosystems.

John Calvo, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's on-site coordinator on Guam, served as the festival's chair. He met with numerous people from the business community, government agencies and other organizations to pursue funding, permits, in-kind support and volunteers for the event. The Guam Visitors Bureau provided a $5,000 grant, and business and village communities

It is a team effort from basket to chahan (underground oven).

contributed various other monetary and in-kind support. The villages, via the Mayors' Council of Guam, contributed their cultural chenchule (sharing) for the feast, which was held the evening of the festival. Pa'a Taotao Tano, the Council of Arts and Humanities Agency and the Department of Chamorro Affairs also participated and supported the event.

During the festival, Council staff set up a pelagic and underwater ecosystem display that featured Judy Amesbury's studies "Pelagic Fishing in the Marianas" and "Lesson from the Manhamko." The studies highlight the history of the local people's connection to and usage of the native resources.

More than 1,200 people were involved with various aspects of the event including exhibits, entertainment, presentations and volunteer work. The festival attracted approximately 5,000 people and was a success by all standards.

Mariana Symposia Rouse Student Interest in Marine Science

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's first-ever student symposia for high school students in the Mariana Archipelago were highly successful, compelling students, teachers, parents and local partners to request that they become annual events. This year's symposia, Integrating Tradition and Western Science, were held at the Fiesta Resort, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), on March 13, 2010, and at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, Tumon Bay, Guam, on March 20, 2010. The symposia increased student awareness of the rich cultural heritage of fishing in the Mariana Archipelago, today's fisheries and coral reef issues, and local marine-related educational and career opportunities.

More than 250 students from both public and private high schools throughout Saipan participated in the CNMI symposium, which was partially funded by a grant to the Council from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. The youths were encouraged to adopt an ethic of sound stewardship for the marine resources and ecosystems of the Mariana Archipelago, so that the people in the CNMI can eat locally caught fish and enjoy healthy coral reefs forever.

Peter Gervacion of Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers speaks with students at the 2010 Guam Student Symposium.

The students engaged in hands-on activities and personal interactions at a series of booths staffed by local and federal agencies and non-government organizations. They listened to short lectures from invited speakers from Guam and Hawaii and won door prizes based upon their ability to recall information provided during the symposium.

Teachers were encouraged to maximize this learning experience by preparing their classes prior to the event and by reviewing the event topics with the students after the symposium. To assist them, they were provided with complimentary copies of a

variety of Council produced educational resources.

Organizations that supplemented the presentations and exhibits provided by the Council included CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (Enforcement and Fisheries Sections), CNMI Historic Preservation Office, Coastal Resources Management, US Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office, Northern Mariana College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, Pacific Marine Resources Institute, and Refaluwasch Navigation Society.

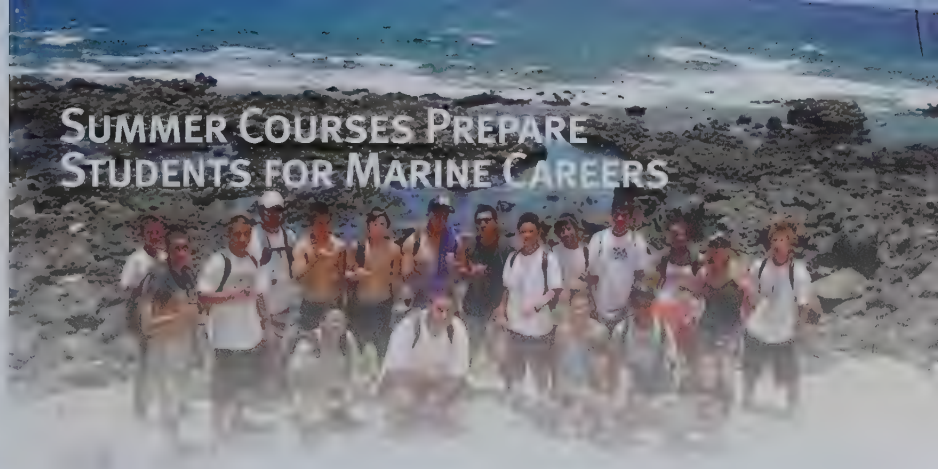
Council Members Ben Sablan and Ignacio Dela Cruz address 250 students at the CNMI symposium

The Guam symposium was attended by approximately 170 students from the island's public and private schools. The students were treated to presentations on historical fishing in the Mariana Archipelago by Judy Amesbury and on the Council's summer marine education program by some of the student participants from Hawaii and Guam. In addition, a variety of exhibit booths allowed students to learn about educational and job opportunities in fisheries and marine resources. Exhibitors included the Guam Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources, Guam Fisherman Cooperative Association, Guam Organization of Salt-water Anglers, Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation, NOAA Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, NRCS, Pacific Island Fishing Group, Underwater World, University of Guam's Cooperative Extension Service 4H Program and Marine Laboratory, and the Council's Chamoru Lunar Calendar Committee. Prizes for the event were provided by Fish Eye Marine Park, McDonalds of Guam, National Office Supplies, Guam Tropical Dive Station, Underwater World and the Council.

Short pre- and post-tests were given to students at both symposia to evaluate their effectiveness as educational events.

The Council is planning to hold a similar student symposium in American Samoa in March 2011. For more information, contact the Council's communications officer, Sylvia Spalding, at Sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov or its American Samoa on-site coordinator, Fini Aitaoto, at Fini.Aitaoto@noaa.gov.

Summer Courses Prepare Students for Marine Careers



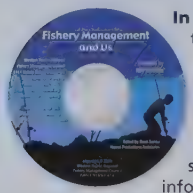
The 2010 High School Summer Courses on Fishery and Resource Management sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council reached more than 80 students in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), Guam and Hawaii. The students learned about oceanography, marine biology, coral reefs, endangered marine species, environmental issues, conservation, management and enforcement. Classroom lessons were enhanced by numerous hands-on activities as well as field trips to related places and facilities such as fishing cooperatives, fishing vessels and marine laboratories. As a final class project, the Hawaii students produced a video concerning the Council focusing on fishery data collection and the Council's Fishbox.org website (see article page 16) that allows fishermen to help add to our knowledge of the ocean.

The instructors for the 2010 courses were Erron Yoshioka and Kelly Calistro, Moanalua High School, Hawaii; Maria Vaofanua, education director, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources and her assistant Lusila Minoreti; Cliff Kyota, 4-H Youth Development Program, University of Guam; and Richard Seman, *Marianas Fishing Magazine* publisher, CNMI. The Hawaii course ran June 2–30, 2010, and provided the 17 students with Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) credits. In American Samoa, a two-week course was offered June 14–25 with 21 students enrolled. The CNMI course ran June 21 to July 2 with 14 students. The Guam course ran July 19 to 30 with 30 students.

As in previous years, these courses were successful because of the selfless commitment of numerous guest lecturers, field trip hosts and other supporters who volunteered their time. The Council is now working to modify components of the Hawaii DOE sanctioned course to make them relevant to the other island areas.

Top left: Hawaii students learn how to determine a fish's age using their otoliths (ear bones). Bottom left: Hawaii students get hands-on experience working in a traditional fishpond. Right: CNMI student Nico Techur collects data with the guidance of Mike Ogo of the Northern Mariana College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

Video, Info Kit Aim to Involve Fishermen in Resource Management



In early 2010 more than 100 Hawaii fishing, diving and boating clubs as well as tournament organizers and fishing and diving supply stores received informational kits distributed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The purpose of the kit is to encourage fishermen and other ocean users to work with the Council and other agencies and organizations to ensure the health and sustainability of our marine resources and our fish-and-poi lifestyle. Fishermen, divers and others who are regularly on and in the water know firsthand what is happening with our fishery resources and marine ecosystems and what we need to do to keep them and our fishing communities healthy.

The informational kit contains brochures, posters, fact sheets and other publications as well as a short video, *Fishery Management and Us*. Recipients are encouraged to review the video and enclosed materials with their club and then to invite an expert from the Council's Speakers Program for a more in-depth presentation on a fishery-related topic of their choosing.

For more information or to request a kit for your club, store or organization, contact the Council at (808) 522-8220 or via email at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. This project was funded in part by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Honolulu Ranks 8th in Value of Fish Landed

In the newly released Fisheries of the United States 2009, the National Marine Fisheries Service ranks the port of Honolulu in 8th place for commercial fishery value ($59.4 million) at major US ports for 2008-2009. Honolulu moved down from 5th place with $73.3 million pounds in landings in 2007-2008. Rounding out the top 10 US ports for value of commercial fishery landings for 2008-2009 were New Bedford, Massachusetts.; Dutch Harbor-Unalaska, Kodiak, Naknek-King Salmon and Sitka, Alaska; Cape May-Wildwood, NJ; Hampton Roads Area, Virginia; and Empire-Venice and Dulac-Chauvin, Louisiana.

Pictured are 18 of 26 participants who attended the IPMEN planning meeting the day after the Fiji conference.

National, International Educators Embrace Traditional Knowledge Initiatives

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's efforts to perpetuate traditional ecological knowledge were evident this year at the International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN) and National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) conferences.

The IPMEN conference, held July 6-9, 2010, at the Outrigger on the Lagoon, Viti Levu, Fiji Islands, concluded with commitments from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Pacific Office and the Fiji Ministry of Education to undertake immediate initiatives to strengthen the role of marine education and traditional knowledge, which they identified as being crucial to the future of sustainable development in the Pacific region.

Barbara Bruno and Carlie Wiener of the University of Hawaii give students a marine science lesson during an IPMEN conference field trip to Tagaqe Village School.

Hosted by the USP Marine Studies Division and Institute of Applied Science, and co-organized by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Nautilus Educational (Australia), College of Exploration (USA), College of the Marshall Islands, Centro AquaSendas-COPAS (Chile) and the Lawrence Hall of Science (USA), the conference brought together 87 partici-pants from a dozen countries to address ways marine education can help Pacific communities prepare for the new millennium. The conference topics included climate change impacts on Pacific children, incorporating traditional and place-basedknowledge to build healthy coastal communities, the changing role of women in fisheries, and gaps in existing Pacific marine education.

During the traditional knowledge strand, Council Communication Officer Sylvia Spalding presented on efforts to develop a Traditional Knowledge Literacy Guide. The Council's Advisory Panel member Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, from the Northern Mariana Islands, provided an overview of Carolinian traditional fisheries management and practices. Raiukiulipiy's participation was partially funded by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. Among the other conference presenters was Pua Kamaka of Coastal America's Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team, who gave an overview of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit held November 2009 in Kauai, which was supported by the Council.

IPMEN is a group of marine educators throughout the Pacific who aim to foster collaborative relationships that will lead to the creation of resources, programs, training and leadership necessary to build ocean literacy at every level of society in the Pacific region. IPMEN was an outcome of the 2007 International Pacific Marine Educators Conference, hosted and organized by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. The 2008 IPMEN conference was held in Brisbane, Australia. The next IPMEN conference is scheduled for Chile in 2012. For more on IPMEN, go to www.ipmen.net. To view the IPMEN 2010 presentations, go to www.coexploration.com.

The week following IPMEN, Spalding and Council Indigenous Coordinator Charles Kaaiai gave presentations on traditional knowledge at the NMEA conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Spalding also co-chaired the NMEA Traditional Knowledge Committee, which was created in 2007 through a recommendation from the Council. NMEA's growing recognition and embracing of traditional knowledge was evidenced at the 2010 conference, which included an opening ceremony from the Cherokee, who were the original inhabitants of the area, as well as a traditional knowledge strand. For more on NMEA Traditional Knowledge Committee, go to www.marine-ed.org/docs/NMEAcommittees.pdf.

Councils and Chefs Promote Regional Fisheries at DC Events

Enjoying the Western Pacific booth at the NOAA Fish Fry are (l-r) NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, Senate Committee on Appropriations Deputy Staff Director Margaret Cuminsky, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Executive Director Kitty Simonds.

Staffing the Councils' booth at the CHOW symposium are (l-r) Pua Kamaka of Coastal America's Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team, Jennifer Gilden of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (seated) and Sylvia Spalding of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. (photo courtesy of Ed Watamura)

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council teamed up with the nation's seven other Regional Fishery Management Councils to promote US domestic fisheries at the 2010 Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) symposium, June 8 to 10, and the 35th annual NOAA Fish Fry, June 9, in Washington, DC.

The Councils addressed the 2010 CHOW theme, "Clean Energy and a Healthy Ocean: Navigating the Future," through an exhibit display and brochure spotlighting the numerous marine protected areas (MPAs) established by the Councils. MPAs are a part of the energy discussion as they figure into the marine spatial planning (MSP) initiative being touted by the Obama Administration. For more on this year's symposium, go to http://nmsfocean.org/CHOW-2010-presentations. For a copy of the Councils' MPA brochure, go to www.fisherycouncils.org.

While in DC, the Regional Councils participated in the NOAA Fish Fry, which was attended by an estimated 2,000 Congressional people, administrators and staff. The Councils had three food booths and two tables of outreach materials.

The Western Pacific Region served Oka Mauga O Alii (see page 23); Spice Crusted Seared Ahi with Hawaiian Pineapple Chutney, Baby Greens and Coconut Sauce; and Marlin Poke with Taro Chip Petals, Tobiko Drizzle and Roasted Black Sesame Seed Garnish. These in demand delicacies from Hawaii and American Samoa were prepared by Chef Kusuma Cooray, professor at the Culinary Institute of the Pacific, University of Hawaii's Kapiolani Community College (KCC); Grant Sato, the Operational Sous Chef at KCC; Sualua Tupolo, executive chef for Sodexo America Samoa USA; and Chef Eugene Foster, owner of Eugene's Personal Chef. The 110 pounds of fresh ahi (bigeye and yellowfin tuna) fillets and 50 pounds of fresh marlin fillets for the Western Pacific dishes were graciously contributed, including packaging and shipping, by the Hawaii Longline Association and Honolulu Fish Company. Coastal America's Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team partnered with the Western Pacific Council to organize, staff and provide additional support for the booth.

At the Western Pacific booth at this year's NOAA Fish Fry, Chefs Kusuma Cooray and Grant Sato from the Culinary Institute of the Pacific served delicious dishes of fresh ahi and marlin, provided compliments of the Hawaii Longline Association and Honolulu Fish Company. (photo courtesy of Ed Watamura)

The Caribbean Region spotlighted scrumptious dishes from Puerto Rico, and the South Atlantic Region featured delicious South Carolina cuisine.

The Councils participation at CHOW and the NOAA Fish Fry was made possible through partial funding provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Applications for the Council's Advisory Panel Now Available

Fishermen, members of fishery-related industries and individuals from fishery- or marine related organizations are invited to apply for membership to the Advisory Panel (AP) for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

The AP includes five subpanels that focus on the American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), Hawaii Archipelago FEP, Mariana Archipelago FEP, Pacific Pelagic FEP and Community Demonstration Project Program (CDPP).

Each of the FEP subpanels includes representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, subsistence and indigenous fisheries, and ecosystems and habitat.

The CDPP subpanel includes representatives from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam and Hawaii who meet the following selection criteria:

- Present or recent activity in recreational, commercial or subsistence fishing;
- Present or recent involvement in the buying, processing or marketing sectors of the fishing industry and/or involvement in conservation or management organizations, fishing clubs or other organized groups concerned with marine or fisheries issues;
- Willingness to play an active role in fisheries management; and
- Ability to dedicate time for fishery document review and participate in panel meetings.

AP members provide advice to the Council on all aspects of the region's fisheries and suggest management strategies. CDPP advisors also review potential project proposals and grant applications

The AP terms are for five years and will commence Jan. 1, 2011. Positions are voluntary (not paid). However, members are reimbursed for expenses related to their participation in meetings. Application forms can be found at www.wpcouncil.org/News or order by phone (808) 522-8220, fax (808) 522-8226 or mail. Address correspondences to Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813. Completed applications must be received by the Council by mail, fax or email (send to info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov) before Oct. 1, 2010.

For more information, contact Joshua DeMello at the Council. He can be reached at Joshua.DeMello@noaa.gov or (808) 522-7493.

Hawaii Group Provides Fishermen Outreach Guidance

On March 2, 2010, a Honolulu-based research firm brought together a group of Oahu fishermen to evaluate their awareness of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The group suggested ways the Council might improve its outreach efforts to engage the fishing community in the fishery management decision-making process.

The fishermen with recreational, commercial and diving interests were asked about the venues the Council uses to reach the public, including its website and meetings, as well as their general attitudes concerning fishing and fishery resources. The group also evaluated a variety of Council outreach and educational materials.

Three-quarters of the participants had heard about the Council, but only a few of the participants were familiar with the Council's role in fishery management. The group members believed that the near-shore fisheries were depleted but offshore fisheries were okay. They felt that development and more people have translated to less fish available to catch. They said that, because rules and regulations are not enforced, there is less fish for those who fish by the rules.

The materials reviewed were generally well received, but several preferred publications with lots of pictures. Many of the focus group members said they get fishery related news from fishing and diving supply stores. They recommended that the Council materials be made available at these businesses and other sports-related establishments. They also suggested that the Council use other mass media venues, including public service announcements, sponsored television programs and radio shows.

Council Family Updates

On Aug. 11, 2010, **William A. Sword** (American Samoa) began his second three-year term as a member of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and **Julie A. K. Leialoha** (Hawaii) began her first term.

A scientist, environmentalist and natural resource manager with experience in forest ecosystems, Leialoha has an undergraduate degree from Evergreen State College in Washington and began her career researching Hawaiian monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a biological technician (June 1985-April 1986). She moved on to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park System and then to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife. She served for six years on the board of the Conservation Council of Hawaii (three as the president). A Native Hawaiian, she currently works as coordinator of the Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve, a partnership effort with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawaii DLNR.

Community Demonstration Project Program Advisory Panel (AP) member **Sambo Mageo** passed away on March 16, 2010. Sambo had assisted Council projects through his capacity as the mayor of Pago Pago village as well as a member of the Council's AP. He was a commercial and subsistence fisherman for more than 30 years and attended several Council meetings in American Samoa and AP meetings in Hawaii. A man of many talents, the well-known local professional jazz musician is survived by his wife and eight children.

Sambo Maego (top left) at an AP meeting in American Samoa in 2005.

Reducing Juvenile Mortality May Keep Bigeye Tuna from Being Overfished

A new stock assessment for bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) was reviewed by Science Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The Committee met in Nukualofa, Tonga, during mid-August 2010. Stock assessments for bigeye and skipjack tunas were considered at the meeting. The deliberations from the Committee will be reported at the end of year plenary meeting of the Commission, along with any advice for management action.

The WCPO stocks have been of concern to the WCPFC over the past decade as catches from all fisheries have increased, especially catches of juveniles by purse seine fisheries operating around fish aggregating devices. These rafts may be anchored to the seabed or allowed to drift un-tethered around the ocean. They aggregate large volumes of the target species for the purse seine fisheries, namely skipjack tuna for canning. Unfortunately, they also aggregate juvenile bigeye tuna, which, when grown to adult sizes, are valuable for the sashimi markets in the Pacific. Catches of bigeye by the longline fisheries alone are at about the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Additional catches by other fisheries like the purse seiners is likely to be unsustainable.

According to the most recent stock assessment, which uses fishery data up to 2009, recent catches are well above the MSY level of 73,840 mt. This is mostly due to a combination of above average recruitment and high fishing mortality. The stock assessment concludes that current levels of catch are unlikely to be sustainable in the long term even at the recent high levels of recruitment estimated for the last decade.

Typically, the longline fleets operating in the WCPO have the greatest impact on the bigeye stock in terms of fishing mortality. However, the 2010 stock assessment concludes that the impact on the current bigeye tuna biomass of the purse seine and other surface fisheries may be equal to or greater impact than the longline fisheries. The stock assessment indicates that bigeye tuna is approaching an overfished state, if it is not already slightly overfished. Moreover, the results suggest that MSY levels would increase significantly if mortality of small fish were reduced, which would allow greater overall yields to be sustainably obtained.

A copy of the stock assessment can be downloaded at www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2010/6th-regular-session-scientific-committee.

RECIPE

Oka Mauga O Alii with Cooked Taro or Green Bananas

Mauga O Alii on American Samoa is the mountain where the Governor's mansion is located. This is one of the traditional dishes served at the mansion, and throughout the island, when having a fia fiaga aiga (Samoan luau). The recipe is courtesy of Chef Sualua Tupolo, who has served as the exclusive chef for three American Samoa governors and is currently the executive chef for Sodexo American Samoa.

Serves 8 to 10 people

2 lbs fresh chilled ahi (yellowfin tuna) fillets, cubed*
¼ tray ice cubes
1 tbsp sea salt
1 qt chilled water
to taste sea salt or kosher salt
to taste white pepper
1 cup green onions, finely diced
¾ cup fresh lime juice (3 medium limes)
zest 1 lime (if not bitter)
1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeded and cubed
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
to taste red Serrano peppers, minced (optional)
2 cups freshly squeezed pe'e pe'e or good quality canned unsweetened coconut cream

Chef Tupolo with Council Executive Director Kitty Simonds

Method:
In a large stainless or glass bowl, mix the ice cubes, 1 tbsp sea salt and chilled water. Soak the fish for at least 10 minutes. While the fish is soaking, prepare the rest of the ingredients. Drain the fish in a colander, and rinse lightly and quickly with cold running water. Make sure to drain the water well.

Return fish into a large chilled bowl, and season with salt and pepper. Wearing gloves (a must when handling hot peppers and raw fish), add the green onions and lomi (massage) them into the fish before adding the rest of the ingredients in the order listed above. Verify the seasoning, and keep refrigerated until served.

Plating:
Serve with cooked taro or green bananas (optional)
** alternate fish: albacore tuna, marlin or boneless snapper*

Lighthouse Eyed for Marianas Trench Visitor's Center

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), has been awarded $220,000 from the US Congress to implement educational programs on marine sanctuaries. US Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan was instrumental in securing the funds for the CNMI. DLNR plans to use the bulk of these funds to turn the old Japanese Lighthouse on Navy Hill into a visitor's center associated with the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The lighthouse was built prior to World War II and has a panoramic view of Saipan's lagoon and the Philippine Sea towards the west and the northern islands to the north where the monument is located.

On May 28, 2010, representatives from Department of Public Lands, Historic Preservation Office, and Department of Public Works met with DLNR staff at the lighthouse where they toured the abandoned facility. The three-story building has a large ground floor area with balconies and four rooms big enough for office space and display areas. The second floor is a big open space, and the third floor has a balcony that goes around the building. The lighthouse was placed on the US National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and is situated on public lands with an area of about 4,240 square meters.

2010 Council Calendar

September

25
Ho'o Lei Ia Puwalu for Oahu, Honolulu

25
Marine Educators Night at the Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu

27-Oct. 1
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Antigua, Guatemala

27-Oct. 5
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Technical and Compliance Committee, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

October

2
Ho'o Lei Ia Puwalu for Molokai, Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii

2
Hawaii Science Teachers Association conference and OCEANIA Marine Educators Association session, Honolulu

2
The Wildlife Society conference, Snowbird, Utah

6-8
105th Scientific & Statistical Committee meeting, Honolulu

10
Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival, Honolulu

11-14
149th Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting, Honolulu

12
Fishers Forum, Honolulu

12-14
9th Native Hawaiian Convention, Honolulu

12-14
4th I Mina Kuatro Na Konferensian Chamorro, Guam

18-22
National Scientific and Statistical Committee, Charleston, SC

18-22
World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress, Bangkok, Thailand

19-21
Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting, Annapolis, Md.

19-21
Council Member Training, Silver Springs, Md.

20-22
Hawaii Seafood Symposium, Honolulu

22-31
PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization) meeting, Portland, Ore.

November

14-17
Energy Use in Fisheries Symposium, Seattle, Wash.

16-18
Pacific Scientific Review Group (Marine Mammal Protection Act stock assessments), Kona, Hawaii

19-20
Ho`o Lei Ia Puwalu for Hawaii Archipelago, Honolulu

26-28
Japanese Sea Turtle Symposium, Aichi, Japan

December

6-10
7th Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting, Ko Olina, Hawaii

13-16
American Geophysical Union conference, San Francisco, Calif.

Upcoming Events

105th SSC and 149th Council Meetings
The public is invited to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting Oct. 6-8 and Standing Committee meeting Oct. 11 at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, and to the Council's 149th meeting, Oct. 12-14 at the Laniakea YWCA-Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards St., Honolulu. Among the key agenda items are a process for setting annual catch limits, Hawaii bottomfish fishery, Hawaii Community Development Program application, Hawaii longline bigeye tuna catch limit management, consideration of a catch shares program for the Hawaii longline fishery, modifications to the American Samoa longline limited entry program and American Samoa large pelagic fishing-vessel closed area options. For more information, go to www.wpcouncil.org/meetings or contact the Council at (808) 522-8220 or info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov.

Fishers Forum "Marine Spatial Planning: Perspectives from Fishermen and Ocean Users"
This public event to be held 6 to 9 p.m., Oct. 12, 2010, at the Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, in conjunction with the 149th Council meeting, will look at locally applying a national initiative to delineate portions of the ocean for different human activities. Is it needed in Hawaii? How can it be done to ensure that fishermen and other ocean users have a fair and effective voice in the decision-making process?

4th I Mina Kuatro Na Konferensian Chamorro
The Chamorro Conference is scheduled to be held Oct. 12-14, 2010, just prior to the Guam Micronesian Island Fair, one of the largest cultural events in Micronesia. The conference brings together Chamorros from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and elsewhere to allow for healing of World War II and other past issues and address current challenges (environmental, political, cultural preservation and perpetuation, etc.). The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's onsite coordinator for Guam, John Calvo, chairs the conference's Logistics Committee.

Ho`o Lei Ia Puwalu
This Nov. 19-20, 2010, meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, will culminate the Puwalu series that has been held throughout the Hawaii Archipelago since August. Native Hawaiians, fishermen and members of the public are invited to participate in this final facilitated workshop that will consider the findings from the previous meetings on best practices for natural resource management, including place-based adaptive management, community code of conduct, community consultation process, education, and eligibility criteria.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) will convene its seventh regular meeting Dec. 6 to 10, 2010, at the J. W. Marriott Ihilani Resort at Ko Olina, Hawaii. The WCPFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Honolulu Convention), which entered into force on June 19, 2004. This international fisheries agreement seeks to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks (e.g., tuna and billfish) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The December meeting is important to offshore commercial fishermen and seafood consumers in the region as the Commission may consider modifying its current management measures to conserve tuna. These measures currently limit Hawaii longline fishery catches for bigeye tuna to 3,763 metric tons annually. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which had co-hosted four of the seven international meetings that led to the Honolulu Convention, will co-host this year's meeting and 10th year celebration of the convention.

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